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FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC

# Higurashi
## WHEN THEY CRY

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## FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC







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THEY ABDUCTED THE VILLAGERS AND ATE THEM UP, ONE...BY... ONE.

GORYU (CRUNCH)

GORYU

THE DEMONS CAME POURING OUT OF ONIGA-FUCHI SWAMP...

ZA (ZSH)

EEK...

"HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!"

"YOU'RE NEXT..."

AH...AAAH...

AAAAAA...


WAA
あああああ
CHAPTER 1: MIYOKO TANASHI


FESTIVAL

MANY YEARS BEFORE 1983...

HA-HA-HA. SORRY, SORRY.

FORGIVE ME, MIYOKO.

COME NOW, DEAR. YOU SHOULDN'T SCARE MIYOKO LIKE THAT.

WHERE DID YOU HEAR THAT GHOST STORY ...?

OH, IT'S A LEGEND FROM THE VILLAGE MY MENTOR IS RESEARCH-ING.

IT WAS SUCH AN INTEREST-ING STORY, I JUST HAD TO TELL IT.

NN-NNH...

HIC! HIC!

MY NAME IS MIYOKO TANASHI.

IT IS NOT "INTER-ESTING"!

...A MOTHER ...

MY FAMILY HAS A FATHER...

...AND ME. WE'RE PRETTY HAPPY TOGETHER.

むー！
MUU (POUT)
HA-HA-HA. SORRY, SORRY.
...SOMETIMES MY DAD TELLS SCARY STORIES. I HATE IT.
...BUT ...
GYU (CLENCH)
ぎゅっ
はっ
HA (GASP)
ポン
PON (PAT)
JUST REMEMBER, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS DEMONS.
わしわし
WASHI (RUFFLE)
WASHI

...MY DAD PATS MY HEAD WITH HIS BIG HAND.

BUT...

I LOVE THE FEELING OF HIS HAND RESTING ON MY HEAD.

RIIIN (JINGLE)

RIIIN

I'M SO GLAD MIYOKO DIDN'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE WAR.

IT'S SO PEACE-FUL.

THERE ISN'T ANY WAR IN JAPAN NOW.

MUCH LESS ANY DEMONS.

YOU'RE A LUCKY GIRL.

...SOME-THING THAT HAPPENED YEARS AGO.

WAR?

KORO (ROLL)

KORO

KORO

...

I'M KIND OF SCARED...

...ARE YOU SURE THERE AREN'T ANY DEMONS?

EVEN IF THERE ARE DEMONS...

DON'T WORRY, MIYOKO.

SEE? IF YOU HADN'T INSISTED ON SCARING HER...

GOD ...?

...GOD WILL PROTECT YOU FROM THEM.

IF YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL, MIYOKO, HE'S SURE TO GIVE YOU HAPPINESS.

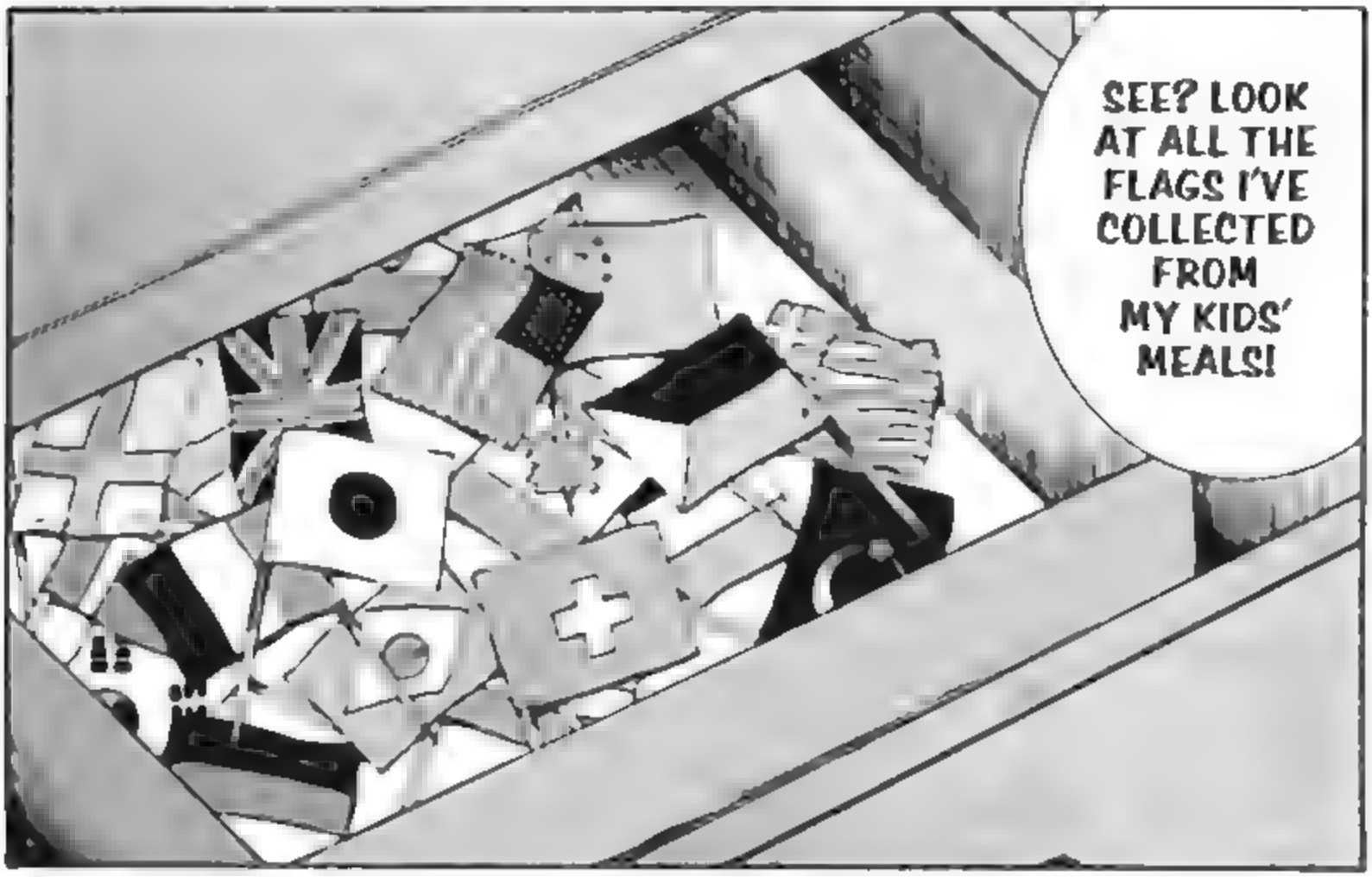
GU (CLENCH)

YUP. GOD IS ALWAYS WATCHING OVER YOU, MIYOKO.

OKAY!

.....


MOM, DAD, LOOK! LOOK!
YAY!
I KNOW! WHY DON'T WE GO TO THE DEPARTMENT STORE AS AN APOLOGY FOR SCARING YOU?
YOU CAN HAVE ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE KIDS MEALS!


SEE? LOOK AT ALL THE FLAGS I'VE COLLECTED FROM MY KIDS' MEALS!


WELL, LOOK AT THAT THE CRYING DEMON IS SMILING ALREADY.
AND WHEN I GET TWENTY, THEN I CAN MAKE A WISH!


JUST ONE MORE, AND I'LL HAVE TWENTY!
I HAVE NINE-TEEN OF THEM!

I LOVE MY MOM AND DAD.

MY DAD'S A LITTLE SCARY, BUT HE'S NICE.

AND MY MOTHER IS ALWAYS SMILING NEARBY.

THAT CAN WAIT UNTIL AFTER YOU'VE GOTTEN A RAISE.

KIDS' MEAL!

AND SINCE WE'RE GOING ANYWAY, I'D LIKE TO BUY SOME GOLF CLUBS...

I'M GOING OUT TO PLAY!

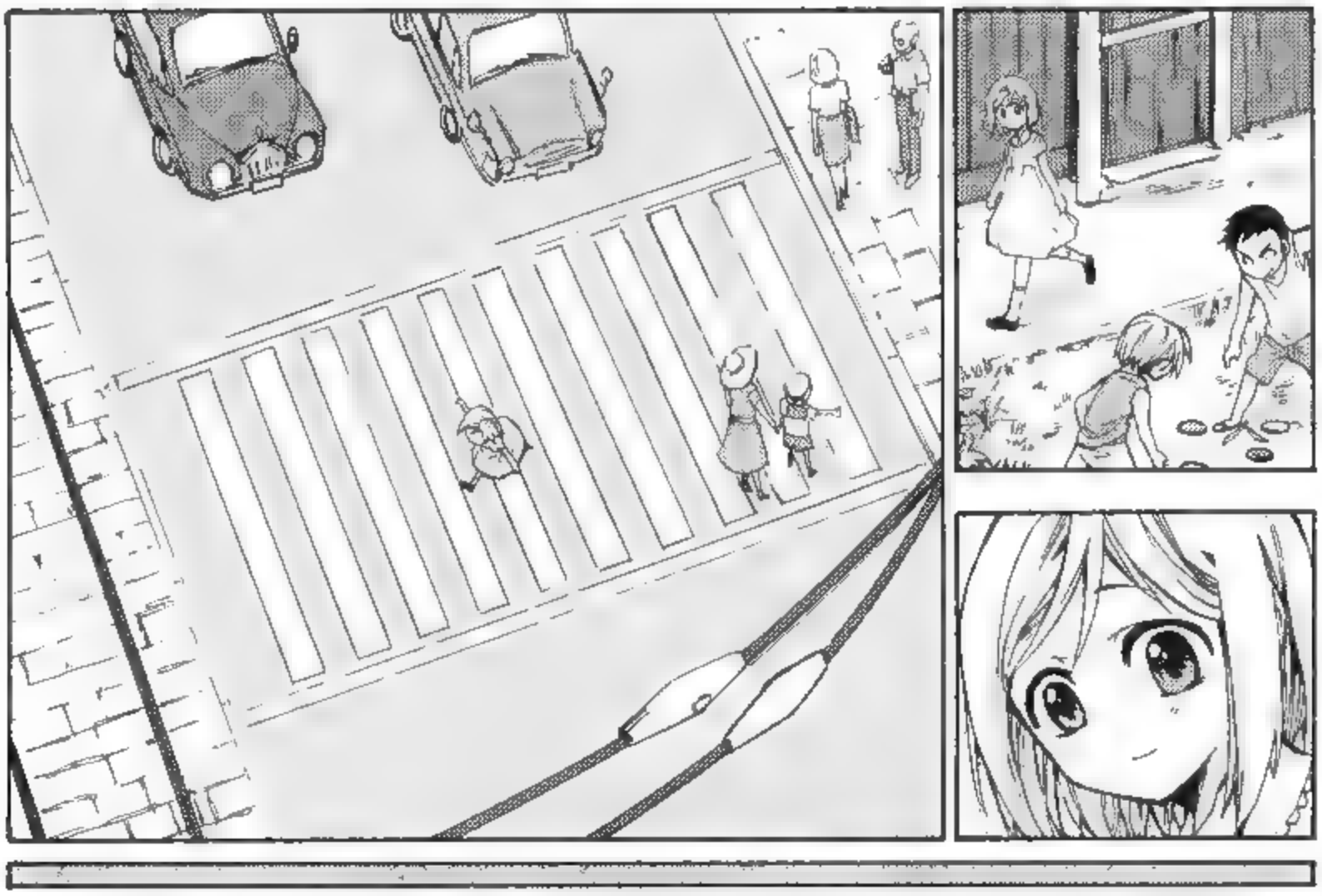
MOM, DAD!

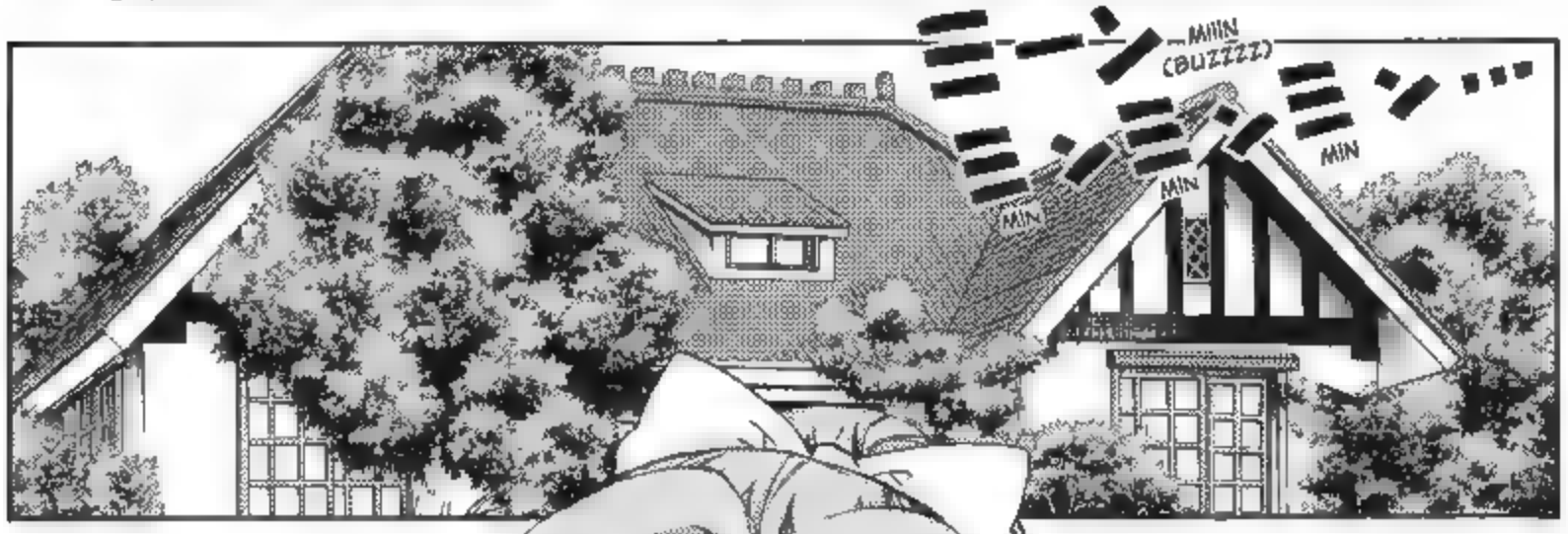
SUN-DAY...

MIIN (BUZZZZ) MIN MIN MIN

HEY, MIYOKO!

SIGNS: CONFECTIONS, BREAD / FIRE EXTINGUISHER




MIIN
(BUZZZZ)
MIN
MIN
MIN


A STORY LIKE THAT MADE YOU CRY?

I'M NOT A BABY!

YOU'RE SUCH A BABY, MIYOKO-CHAN.

...HE SHOULD BUY YOU A PICTURE BOOK.

BUT IF HE'S GONNA TELL STORIES ABOUT DEMONS...

PAPA ...?

LIKE MY PAPA.

OH, DIDN'T YOU KNOW?

IN AMERICA, KIDS CALL THEIR PARENTS MAMA AND PAPA.

PAPA SAID THAT IT'S GONNA CATCH ON IN JAPAN TOO.

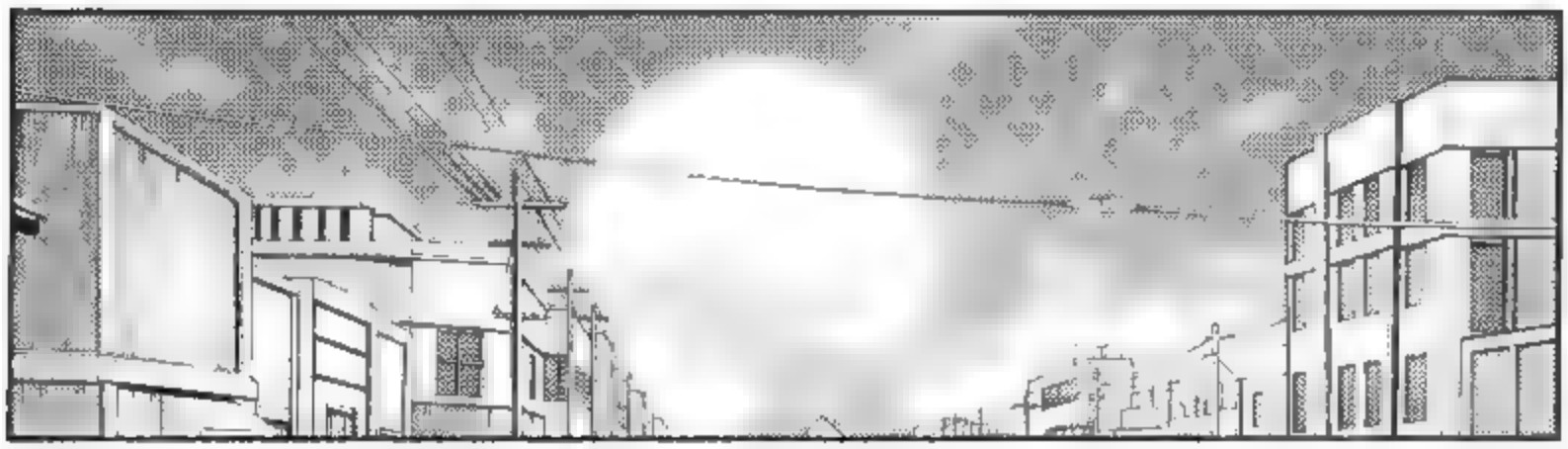
ISN'T IT COOL?

PAPA...
MAMA...




NOTE: IN JAPANESE LEGEND THE THREE SACRED TREASURES REFER TO THE SWORD, MIRROR, AND JEWEL THAT WERE USED TO LURE THE SUN GODDESS AMATERASU OUT OF HIDING AND BRING LIGHT BACK TO THE WORLD. IN MODERN CONTEXTS, IT'S COME TO REFER TO THREE ITEMS THAT WOULD MAKE FOR AN IDEAL LIFESTYLE. IN MIYOKO'S TIME, THOSE THREE ITEMS WERE A COLOR TELEVISION, AN AIR CONDITIONER, AND A CAR.





MAYBE I'LL CALL MY PARENTS MAMA AND PAPA TOO.

.....

ZZZZE..

.. BUT IT'S A LITTLE EMBAR-RASS-NG...

...IF I CALLED THEM MAMA AND PAPA...

...BUT... BUT MAYBE...

PaPa

YOU'RE SO SMART, MIYOKO.

...MAYBE THEY WOULD LIKE IT.

MaMa

HOW STYLISH.

I JUST KNOW MOM AND DAD WILL LIKE IT!

I WANT TO CALL THEM PAPA AND MAMA AS SOON AS I CAN!

TA (TEP) TA

EH-HEH-HEH... OKAY! TIME TO HURRY HOME!

MOM, DAD!

I'M HOME!

WHAT ARE THEY DOING AT MY HOUSE...?

...? POLICE-MEN?

Y-YES, SIR...

...YOU MUST BE MIYOKO TANASHI-CHAN.

...WHAT'S HAPPENING? MY HEART IS POUNDING.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT MY HOUSE, SIR...?

IT'S YOUR PARENTS.

...I NEED YOU TO STAY CALM WHILE I TELL YOU THIS.

THEY WERE IN A TRAIN ACCIDENT.

EH...?

NO...


BURORORORO
VRRRROOM


THEN... UNFORTU-NATELY...
...YOUR PARENTS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ON THEIR WAY TO THE DEPARTMENT STORE.


...THE TRAIN THEY WERE ON DERAILED.

GATA
GATA (SHIVER)
DOKUN (THUMP)
DOKUN
THEY'VE JUST BEEN ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL.
GYU (SQUEEZE)
NO... NO...
PIIPOO (WEE-OO)
DAD! MOM...!
PIIPOO

AH! WAIT!

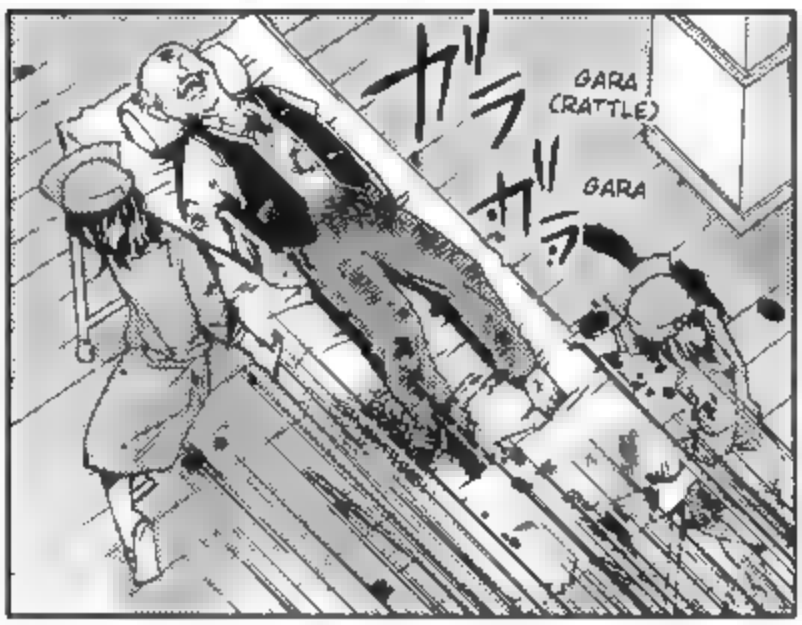
MOM! DAD!!

DA (DASH)

BAN (BAM)

ARE YOU OKAY!?

MOM! DAD!


ガラ
GARA
(RATTLE)
ガラ
GARA


HAA
(HUFF)
HAA

EEK...!

SO MANY PEOPLE...ALL COVERED IN BLOOD...

...ON THE SAME TRAIN AS MY DAD...?

NO... WERE ALL OF THESE PEOPLE...

GAKU

GAKU (SHAKE)

...MOM AND DAD COULD BE...

IT HURTS! UWAAAH!

THEN...

I'M SCARED... I'M SCARED.

DON (BLUMP)

WHERE ARE YOU?

D-DAD? MOM?

JUUUU (MOOOAN)

HIC! HIC...

NN... NGHI

DAD! MOM!

WHERE ARE YOU...?

M... MIYOKO ...

THAT'S DAD'S VOICE...

DAD—

HIS WHOLE BODY IS WRAPPED IN BAN-DAGES.

AND... HIS ARM...

DAD... HE'S COVERED IN BLOOD...

MIYOKO ...

D... DAD...

GEHO (KOFF)

GEHO

MI... MIYO...

EEK ...!

HIS ARM IS GONE...!

NO.

GATA

GATA

GATA SHIVER

N- NO...

NOOOOOO!!!

...WERE BOTH FINE!

JUST THIS MORNING, MOM AND DAD...

THIS IS A DREAM!

I'M DREAM-ING!

COVERED IN BLOOD AND BANDAGES? IT'S NOT TRUE...

AND NOW DAD IS LIKE THIS?

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!

THIS IS A DREAM!

M-MIYOKO...

MIYOKO!

NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO !!

DON'T MOVE!

MIYO KO

C... CALM DOWN.

KOFF! KOFF!

...TO MOVE HIS ARM.

D-DAD IS TRYING...

...DAD IS TRYING...

...DAD...

ZEE (WHEEZE)

ZEE

...MIYOKO...!

...TO PAT ME ON THE HEAD...

...IS GONE NOW.

...THAT BIG, STRONG HAND THAT WOULD ALWAYS PAT MY HEAD...

BUT...

BUT...

ポタ (DRIP)

ポタ

ポタ...

(GAKU! SLUMP)

...MIYOKO... LISTEN TO ME.

... UNNH ...

...YOUR MOTHER...

...DIED IN THE ACCIDENT.

...THERE WON'T BE ANYONE LEFT TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.

SO...IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME...

WE LOST ALL OF OUR RELATIVES IN THE WAR.

...NO... NO...

GEHO (KOFF)

...LISTEN TO ME. THIS IS IMPOR-TANT.

DON'T DIE!!

N... NO! NO!

YOU CAN'T DIE!

...I WANT YOU TO GO TO MY MENTOR.

MIYOKO, IF YOU EVER...FIND YOURSELF ALONE...

HIFUMI TAKANO ...?

HIS NAME IS HIFUMI TAKANO-SENSEI. SAY IT FOR ME.

IF YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL, GOD WILL REWARD YOU.

...MI-YOKO.

POTA (DRIP)

POTA

IF...IF ANYONE CAN HELP YOU, MIYOKO, HE CAN.

KOKU

KOKU

THAT'S RIGHT. I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER THAT NAME.

...I WANT YOU TO LIVE A GOOD LIFE.

EVEN IF I DIE...

PROMISE ME YOU'LL C...

... CONTACT HIM...

HIS

HIS

3.3

3.3

KOFF!
KOFF!

KAFF!
GAHK!

GEBO
(GARBLE)

PAKU

PAKU
(GAPE)

UH...
AH...

BISHA
(SPLITCH)

GEHO!
(KOFF)

DOCTOR!
THIS
PATIENT
—!!

DAD!
DAD!?

GEHO

ZEE

BUT...

ZEE

(WHEEZE)

DAD IS TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING.

AAAH!

...BUT HIS VOICE...

...HE'S LOST HIS VOICE.

DOC-TOR...

KOFF! KOFF! HAKH!

KFF! KAFF!

GEHO

GEHO

AAA-AAH!! WAA-AAH!!

AH...

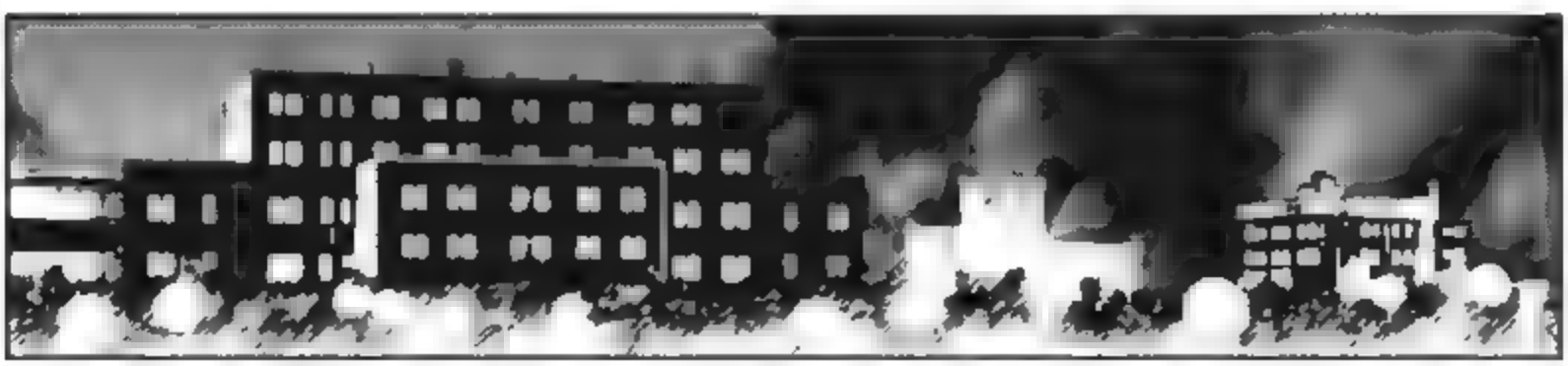
KAFF...

AH...

DAD...

AH...
AHHH...
DAD...


DAAAAAD!!!



THIS IS A DREAM.

I'M DREAMING...

A FEW DAYS LATER—

HNN... NNH...

UNGH

UUH

HIC, HIC...

DAD... MOM...

SHE'S LOST BOTH HER PARENTS, AND SHE'S STILL SO YOUNG.

CAN YOU BLAME HER?

SHE WON'T STOP CRYING.

ひっく

HIKKU

ひっく...

HIKKU (HIC)

APPARENTLY SHE HAS NONE.

POTA

POTA...

POTA (DRIP)

NEXT OF KIN?

SAY, MIYOKO-CHAN.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO MIGHT TAKE YOU IN?

...THERE WON'T BE ANYONE LEFT TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.

SO...IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME...

WE LOST ALL OF OUR RELATIVES IN THE WAR.

A RELATIVE OR A FRIEND OF YOUR PARENTS ...?

GYU (CLENCH)

TA...

...I WANT YOU TO GO TO MY MENTOR.

...IF ANYONE CAN HELP YOU, MIYOKO, HE CAN.

...TAKANO-SENSEI...

HIFUMI TAKANO-SENSEI...

HOW CAN WE REACH HIM?

TAKANO-SENSEI? WHO'S THAT?

FURU (SHAKE)

FURU

FURU

BECAUSE WE WERE AT WAR UNTIL JUST RECENTLY.

THERE ARE SO MANY KIDS LIKE HER.

...MAN, OH MAN...

...WHAT WITH THE PAPERWORK AND THE PERSONNEL, IT TAKES A LOT OF RESOURCES.

WHEN WE HAVE TO FIND THE RELATIVES THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO CONTACT...

THERE'S NO END OF WAR ORPHANS WITH NOWHERE TO GO.

BUT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PUT HER IN AN INSTITU-TION.

I FEEL SORRY FOR HER.

THEY MADE ME WRITE MY NAME ON PAPERS THAT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.

I WAS SUR-ROUNDED BY MEN I DIDN'T KNOW.

AND THEN I HAD TO GO TO AN INSTITU-TION.

DAD... MOM...

I DON'T WANT TO GO ANY-WHERE.

ガー

BATAN (SHUT)

ブロロロ...

BURORORORO (VRRRROOM)

BUROROROROO (VRRRROOM)

.....

BECAUSE IT'S SO DEEP IN THE MOUN-TAINS.

THIS IS A ROUGH ROAD.

KI (SCREE)

COME ON, MIYOKO-CHAN.

ALL RIGHT, HERE WE ARE.

THIS IS YOUR NEW HOME.

MIYOKO-CHAN, SAY HELLO

YES.

SO THIS MUST BE MIYOKO TANASHI-CHAN.

HOME ...?

I'M PLEASED TO MEET YOU, MIYOKO-CHAN.

IT'S OUR JOB TO TAKE CARE OF CHILDREN LIKE HER.

THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT.

I'M SORRY. SHE HASN'T RECOVERED FROM THE SHOCK OF LOSING HER PARENTS.

...AH, UM...

I PROMISE, MIYOKO-CHAN.

THEN I'M SURE SHE'LL RECOVER FROM THE SADNESS OF LOSING HER PARENTS.

SHE JUST NEEDS TO MAKE FRIENDS AND HAVE FUN WITH THEM EVERY DAY.

THERE ARE A LOT OF CHILDREN HERE WITH NO FAMILIES.

I WILL TAKE YOUR PARENTS' PLACE AND RAISE YOU WITH AS MUCH LOVE AS THEY WOULD HAVE.

ふぅ...
HO (WHEW)

ブロロロ...
BURORORORO (VRRRROOM)

PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER.

I FEEL MUCH BETTER KNOWING WE CAN LEAVE HER WITH YOU.

OKAY, LET'S GO.

THIS IS YOUR NEW HOME FROM NOW ON.

PAN (PAT)

...THIS ISN'T MY HOME.

...NO...

...MOM AND DAD WERE ALWAYS WAITING FOR ME.

WHEN I WOULD COME BACK HOME...

...IS THE HOUSE WHERE I LIVED WITH MOM AND DAD.

MY HOME ...

...AND GIVE ME DELICIOUS FOOD TO EAT.

THEY'D TELL ME STRANGE STORIES...

...NO ONE WILL BE WAITING FOR ME THERE.

BUT IF I GO HOME NOW...

WE WERE SO HAPPY AND HAD SO MUCH FUN.

WE WERE ALL LAUGHING TOGETHER IN THAT HOUSE UNTIL JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

NNH... UUUH...

PORO

PORO (DRIP)

MOM...
DAD...

MIYOKO-CHAN...

HIKKU (HIC)

ひっく ひっく...

HIKKU

は!

HA (GASP)

...YOU STILL MISS THEM, DON'T YOU?

SU (SSK)

ぽん
PON (PAT)
...
...SENSEI...
su



HUH?

DO (THUD)

GUI (YANK)

ZA (ZSH)

OW... THAT HURT...

WH-
WHAT...?

ドガッ

ドガッ

ドガッ

CRAK

CRAK

GA-
NNACK

GO (WHAM)

DO (THUD

WELL, THAT FINALLY SHUT YOU UP.

IT HURTS ...

GU (STRAIN)

AH... AHH...

CARRYING ON JUST 'COS YOUR PARENTS KICKED IT... QUIT YOUR SNIVELING!

YOU WHINY LITTLE BRAT!

WHY WOULD YOU...?

WH... WHY...?

DON (BUMP)

EEK ...!



WH... WHAT'S WRONG...

...WITH THEM?

THEIR EYES ARE SO EMPTY...

WHAT... IS THIS PLACE...?

COME ON.

O-OW!

NO!

ガッ!!

GA (GRAB)

...THAT THE DEATH OF MY PARENTS ...

THIS IS WHERE I WOULD LEARN...

NOOO! HELP MEEEE!

...WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF MY HELL.

MOM! DAD!

CHAPTER 2

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

# CHAPTER 2: ESCAPE

GAN (CLANG)

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

GAN

...BUT WHOEVER IT IS IS STRAINING WITH EVERY OUNCE OF STRENGTH TO APOLOGIZE.

THE VOICE IS SO MUFFLED, YOU CAN'T MAKE OUT WHAT'S BEING SAID...

KARI

KARI

KARI (SCRITCH)

KARI

KARI

KARI

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

...I DON'T WANT TO KNOW.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE COFFIN IS.

...AND THE RINGING SOUND OF METAL STRIKING METAL OVER AND OVER... THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW.

I'M SORRY.

GAN

GAN

I'M SORRY.

GAN

GAN

BUT I CAN HEAR THE MAN'S ANGRY ROAR...

DON'T HIT ME ANYMORE... PLEASE...

I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANY-MORE...

I NEVER WANT THAT TO HAPPEN TO ME.

I'M SCARED ...

PLEASE... DON'T HURT ME...

I WON'T CRY ANYMORE...

HEY.

I DON'T SEE THAT PEN MOVING.

HA (GASP)

EEE ...!

BA (JUMP)

PLEASE DON'T TAKE ME TO THE COFFIN...!

GARI (SCRITCH)

GARI

PLEASE GO AWAY!

SEE HOW HARD I'M STUDY-ING?

GARI

GARI

GARI

カッ-!...
KATSUN (CLACK)
カッ-!
KA
カッ
KA (CLACK)
...HMPH.
SU (SSK)
HO... (WHEW)
I'M MUYOKO TANASHI. I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE I CAME TO THIS ORPHANAGE.
THEY DIDN'T HURT ME TODAY...
KYU (CLENCH)
I WASN'T HIT TODAY.
THOSE DAYS, THAT WAS THE ONLY THING THERE WAS TO BE HAPPY ABOUT.
GAN
GAN
GAN
GAN
GAN
I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY.


ガチャッ
ガチャッ
ガチャッ
LOCKS IN PLACE!!
LOCKS IN PLACE!! LIGHTS OUT!!

NIGHT IS THE ONLY TIME I CAN BREATHE EASILY.

I'M SORRY

THERE IT IS AGAIN.

THEY PUT SOMEONE IN THE COFFIN JUST FOR SOME LATE-NIGHT ENTER-TAINMENT.

GAR
GAR
GAR
GARI (SCRITCH)
GARI
GARI

BUT IT'S REALLY JUST A PRISON CAMP.

ON THE OUTSIDE, THEY CALL THIS PLACE AN ORPHANAGE.

THE PEOPLE WHO RUN IT COLLECT ORPHANS AND LOCK THEM UP SO THEY CAN GET THE MONEY FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

THEY ENJOY PUNISHING US...

THEY CHOOSE THEIR VICTIMS AT RANDOM...

THEY DON'T CARE WHO THEY'RE PUNISHING.

TOMORROW, I MIGHT BE THE ONE IN THE COFFIN...

ZOKU (SHUDDER)

HELP ME... DAD... MOM.....

AND WE'RE SO FAR OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS. WHEN THEY DO KILL US, NO ONE WILL COME TO HELP, NOT EVEN THE POLICE.

GUSU (SNIFFLE)

GUSU

IF WE DON'T GET OUT, THEY'LL KILL US...

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE...

GU (CLENCH)

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

WE DON'T HAVE PARENTS OR RELATIVES.

NO ONE WILL EVER COME SAVE US.

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

THIS IS OUR ONLY CHOICE...

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

...TO LIVE HERE IN FEAR UNTIL WE DIE...

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.


HEY, GIRLS...
PROMISE NOT TO REPEAT TO ANYBODY WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY.


.....


.....
?
WH-WHAT IS IT... ERIKO-CHAN?


THERE MIGHT BE A WAY OUT OF HERE.

SHH! NOT SO LOUD!

WH- WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

ACTU- ALLY...

TON TAP

...YOU KNOW THE DOOR BEHIND THE STAIRS? THE ONE THAT LEADS OUTSIDE?

I HEARD YOU CAN UNLOCK IT WITH THE KEY TO THE CHICKEN COOP.

WHA ...?

THE KEYS JUST HAPPEN TO BE A SIMILAR SHAPE.

REALLY !?

BUT...IF WHAT SHE SAYS IS TRUE...

GOKU (GULP)

...SO WE HAD GIVEN UP ALL HOPE OF ESCAPING FROM HERE.

ALL THE DOORS AND WINDOWS THAT OPEN TO OUTSIDE THE FACILITY ARE LOCKED UP TIGHT...

IF WE JUST WAIT FOR A CHANCE TO SNEAK OFF TO THAT STAIRWAY...

AND IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE GOING TO BE WATCHING US THE WHOLE TIME WE'RE CLEANING.

THEY LET US HAVE THE KEY TO THE CHICKEN COOP WHEN IT'S OUR TURN TO CLEAN IT OUT.

...THEN ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS OPEN THE LOCK AND RUN.

WE CAN ESCAPE THIS HELL...?

WE CAN LEAVE ...?

SHIN (SILENCE)

THERE IS A PLACE.

WE'RE DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS. THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN TO...

BUT EVEN IF WE DO GET OUT, WHERE WOULD WE GO?

I HEARD THEY'LL TAKE ANY ORPHANS WHO RUN AWAY FROM HERE.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER, FAR EAST OF HERE, THERE'S AN ORPHANAGE CALLED THE HOUSE OF LOVE.

AND THEY HAVE NAP TIME AND SNACK TIME.

THE LADY IN CHARGE IS VERY NICE.

THAT'S RIGHT ALL OF US...

SO IF WE CAN MAKE IT THERE...

NAP TIME...

SNACK TIME...

...CAN CRAWL OUT OF HELL AND ASCEND TO HEAVEN.

ドン...

THE HOUSE OF LOVE ACROSS THE RIVER...

IF I GO THERE...

...I WON'T HAVE TO SPEND EVERY DAY WONDERING WHEN THEY'RE GOING TO KILL ME!

GU (GRIT)

B-BUT IF...

...IF THEY CATCH US...WHAT HAPPENS THEN?

SH IN (SILENCE)

WH... WHAT HAP-PENED TO THEM?

A LONG TIME AGO, SOME KIDS TRIED TO ESCAPE...

...AND EVERYONE WHO WAS CAUGHT WAS GIVEN A PUNISHMENT EVEN WORSE THAN THE COFFIN.

GJ (CLENCH)

I... HEARD SOME-THING ONCE.

THE PIG WITH ITS LEGS PLUCKED OFF.

THE SQUASHED CATER-PILLAR.

THE THIRSTY DUCK.

EVEN IF I WANTED TO ASK, THOSE KIDS AREN'T AROUND ANYMORE.

I DON'T KNOW... THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SO SCARY.

WH-WHAT KIND OF PUNISH-MENTS ARE THOSE...?

THEY WERE KILLED.

THEY'LL KILL US TOO.

LEAVE IT BE. WE CAN'T ESCAPE— IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.

ZO (SHUDDER)

...THEY'LL CHANGE THE LOCKS, AND THEN IT REALLY WILL BE HOPELESS.

IF THEY FIGURE OUT THAT THE KEYS ARE THE SAME...

...I'M SCARED TOO...

...BUT THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE.


...LET'S SCRAPE TOGETHER ALL OUR COURAGE. JUST THIS ONCE...
WE'LL NEVER HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO GET OUT OF HERE.




I'M IN.

MIYOKO...!

IF WE STAY HERE, THEY COULD KILL US AT ANY TIME ANYWAY.

SO I'M WILLING TO TAKE THE RISK.

ME TOO. DON'T LEAVE ME HERE.

M-ME TOO.

THIS IS OUR ONLY HOPE.

WE HAVE TO TAKE HOLD OF IT!

WHAT DAYS WOULD HAVE THE FEWEST STAFF MEMBERS ...

WHAT ROUTE WE WOULD TAKE...WE WORKED OUT EVERY DETAIL.

WE CAREFULLY PIECED TOGETHER OUR ESCAPE PLAN.

THEN FINALLY...

3:00

GORORORORO (RRRRUMBLE)

...THE DAY CAME!

.. THE GUARD LEFT.

DON'T RUSH IT.

QUIETLY.

YEAH WE KNOW

THERE AREN'T VERY MANY GUARDS. SPLITTING UP WILL MAKE IT HARDER FOR THEM TO FOLLOW.

EVERYONE UNDERSTAND? ONCE WE'RE OUT THE DOOR, WE ALL GO IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

...THE NEXT TIME WE SEE EACH OTHER, IT WILL BE AT THE HOUSE OF LOVE.

THIS IS IT...

ガチャ

GACHA (CLICK)

NOW, WE JUST TAKE THIS KEY AND...

LET'S GO!

IT'S OPEN !!

WE'LL GO THROUGH HERE AND TAKE HOLD OF OUR FUTURE!

THIS IS THE DOOR TO THE FUTURE.

...

!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE!?

AH

EVERY-BODY RUN!!

BAN (BAM)

STOP RIGHT THERE !!

STOP!

ゴロロ…!!!

SCAT-TER!!

SPLIT UP! JUST LIKE WE PLANNED !!

IF WE ALL GO DIFFERENT WAYS, THEY'LL HAVE A HARD TIME FOLLOWING US.

THERE ARE FOUR OF US.

WE'RE RUNNING TO THE HOUSE OF LOVE!


ARGH...
AHAH-
NNGH
...!!
LET ME GO!
NO! LET ME GO!


GU (PRESS)
...GH...
GIRI
GHH GUH ...!
GIRI
GIRI
HE'S GOING TO KILL ME.
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!!

BUCHII (CRUNCH)

E-EEK!!

MY THUMB! MY THUMB!!!

BOTA (DRIP)

BOTA

BUSHU (BSHH)

GYAAAAAAA!!

THE THIRSTY DUCK. THE SQUASHED CATERPILLAR. THE PIG WITH ITS LEGS PLUCKED OFF.

HAA

...EVERYONE WHO WAS CAUGHT WAS GIVEN A PUNISHMENT EVEN WORSE THAN THE COFFIN.

IF THEY CATCH ME, THEY'LL TORTURE ME TO DEATH WITH THOSE TERRIBLE PUNISH-MENTS!

IF THEY CATCH ME, THEY REALLY WILL KILL ME!

I HAVE TO RUN !!!

KANA

KANA

KANA

ゴロロン…

GORORORON
(RRRRUMBLE)

HAA

HAA
(HUFF)

HAA

HAA

HAA

ZA
(ZSH)

ザッ

IF I CAN JUST MAKE IT OUT OF THIS GROVE...

I'M ALMOST THERE!

...THEN I'LL BE IN SIGHT OF THE HOUSE OF LOVE.

GOROROROR...

BUT IF I CAN MAKE IT THROUGH THESE TREES...

...MY LIFE HAS BEEN NOTHING BUT TORTURE.

EVER SINCE LOSING MOM AND DAD...

...I'LL BE SAVED!!

ZAAAA (SHHHH)

—!!

IF I JUST BACKTRACK A LITTLE...

...EVERY-THING SHOULD BE FINE.

TH-THAT'S STRANGE... I WAS SUPPOSED TO COME OUT ALONG THE RIVER.

OH. I MUST HAVE GONE A LITTLE OFF COURSE.

AH!!

DA DASH

ZAAAAA SHHHH

THAT'S WEIRD... I'VE COME SO FAR, BUT I STILL DON'T SEE THE RIVER.

HAA (HUFF)

HAA

HAA

NO, I'M SURE...

IT'S JUST... JUST A LITTLE FARTHER.

NO.

YOU ALREADY KNOW, MIYOKO TANASHI...

...THAT YOU COMPLETELY LOST SIGHT OF WHERE YOU NEEDED TO GO!!

YOU WERE IN SUCH A PANIC AFTER HE ATTACKED YOU...

YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT TO THE HOUSE OF LOVE NOW.

YOU'LL NEVER BE SAVED...!

ZAAAAA (SHHHH)

# CHAPTER 3: THUNDER






I DON'T SEE THAT MAN ANYMORE...
...BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT DIRECTION I'M GOING IN...


...I'VE BEEN WALKING FOR HOURS...


...I'M COLD...

I'M HUNGRY.

MY FEET HURT.

...I GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL.

I WANT TO SIT DOWN SOME-WHERE AND REST.

BUT THE SCRAPES AND SCRATCHES ALL OVER MY BODY ARE STILL HOT.

GU (CLENCH)

THE RAIN IS CHILLING ME TO THE BONE.

ZA (CRASH)

I HAVE TO KEEP WALKING...

...NO. IF I REST NOW, I'LL NEVER STAND UP AGAIN.

I WONDER IF THEY MADE IT TO THE HOUSE OF LOVE.

...I WONDER IF ERIKO AND THE OTHERS ARE SAFE.

I WONDER IF THEY'VE BEEN GIVEN SOFT TOWELS AND GOOD FOOD.

LIKE WHEN MOM AND DAD WERE STILL ALIVE...

UNNH ...

... KHN ...

JARI (CRUNCH)

...MOM...
DAD...

ZAAAA
(SHHHH)

ZAAAAAA



HOW DID EVERYTHING TURN OUT THIS WAY?

NGH...

...AND SPENT EVERY DAY LIVING IN FEAR.

I WAS PUT IN AN ORPHANAGE THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN MORE ACCURATELY CALLED A PRISON...

MY MOM AND DAD WERE SUDDENLY TAKEN FROM ME...

EVER SINCE THE ACCIDENT, I'VE JUST BEEN FALLING AND FALLING, LOWER AND LOWER...

THE DICE HAVE NEVER ONCE BEEN FAVORABLE FOR ME.

IT'S LIKE THE DICE OF DESTINY KEEP COMING UP ONES.

IF THIS WERE MY PUNISHMENT FOR HAVING A FORTUNATE LIFE, FOR BEING HAPPIER THAN I DESERVED, THEN MAYBE THIS WOULD BE NECESSARY.

IF THE TRAIN ACCIDENT HAD BEEN MY FAULT AT LEAST, THEN I COULD ACCEPT THIS FATE.

THE ONLY LUXURY I HAD IN LIFE WAS WHEN MY PARENTS TOOK ME TO THE DEPARTMENT STORE FOR A KIDS' MEAL.

MY LIFE BEFORE NOW WAS HAPPY, BUT IT WAS A VERY ORDINARY HAPPINESS.

BUT MY LIFE WAS NEVER LIKE THAT.

MIYOKO...

SO WHY DID I HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS...?

I NEVER DID ANYTHING THAT WOULD MAKE PEOPLE GOSSIP BEHIND MY BACK.

IF YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL, MYOKO, HE'S SURE TO GIVE YOU HAPPINESS.

...GOD IS ALWAYS WATCHING OVER YOU, MYOKO.

IF YOU'RE REALLY WATCHING OVER ME, THEN SAVE ME!!

YOU'RE STUPID, GOD!

WHY ARE YOU TREATING ME LIKE THIS!?


I WON'T ALWAYS BE ALONE IN A TERRIBLE PLACE LIKE THIS, WILL I?
WHY IS ALL OF THIS HAP-PENING TO ME!?
WHAT DID I DO?




...NGH... UNNH...
...I WON'T, WILL I?

I ONLY LIVED A NORMAL LIFE!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH PAIN! MORE THAN ENOUGH !!

IF THIS IS THE FLIP SIDE OF THAT... THEN IT DOESN'T ADD UP!!

...AND I'M MEANT TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE LIKE THIS...

BUT IF...!! IF THIS IS MY DESTINY ...

END MY MISERY AND LEAD ME TO ENOUGH HAPPI-NESS TO MAKE UP FOR THIS!!

IF...!! IF THIS FATE IS SOME MISTAKE OF YOURS!!

THEN RE-LEASE ME FROM IT!!

...THEN I DON'T WANT THIS LIFE!!!

KILL ME RIGHT NOW!!

JUST LIKE YOU MERCI-LESSLY TOOK MY NORMAL LIFE FROM ME!

MERCI-LESSLY STRIKE ME DOWN WITH YOUR LIGHT-NING!!

HIT ME WITH YOUR LIGHT-NING!!

ゴロゴロ…!!

IN THAT CASE...

ZAAAAA (SHHHH)

THERE IS A GOD... HE'S RESPOND-ING TO MY VOICE.

KI (GLARE)

...I CHAL-LENGE YOU, GOD!!

YOU TOOK MY MOM AND DAD!

SO TAKE MY LIFE TOO! TAKE ME!!

MIYOKO TANASHI IS STANDING RIGHT HERE!!

GO ON!! KILL ME!!

...IF YOU DO NOT KILL ME...

...BUT LISTEN CARE-FULLY.

...THEN IN EXCHANGE...

KA (FLASH)

...TURN MY DES-TINY AROUND !!

...YOU HAVE TO...

...ACCEPTS MY CHAL-LENGE.

GOD...

NOW, WITH THIS...

...MY DESTINY IS SET.


DON
BOOM








ガサッ


...THE LIGHT-NING...
...STRUCK A TREE.


IF THE LIGHT-NING HAD STRUCK ME, THEN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ALL OVER.
...I TOOK A RISK.

...AH HA... AH HA HA...

...THEN I TOLD GOD TO TURN MY MISERABLE DESTINY AROUND.

BUT IF IT FAILED TO KILL ME...

OKAY, GOD! NOW SAVE ME!

HA! LOOK! I'M STILL ALIVE!

SAVE ME FROM MY MISERY RIGHT NOW!

NOTH-ING'S HAPPEN-ING...

.....

—!!

SO...

THERE'S NO GOD AFTER ALL—

A LIGHT...?

ガアアアア…

...A PHONE BOOTH?

DID GOD LEAD ME HERE?

PATAN (SHUT)

WHY WOULD THERE BE A PHONE BOOTH WAY OUT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

KII (CREAK)

NOW THAT HE'S BROUGHT ME HERE, WHAT DOES HE WANT ME TO DO...?

...BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY TO MAKE A CALL...

THERE'S A PHONE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...

A TEN-YEN COIN!!

LABEL: PUSH FOR COIN

THERE'S NO WAY A TEN-YEN COIN WOULD JUST HAPPEN TO BE HERE RIGHT WHEN I NEED IT.

NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED.

DID SOMEONE FORGET IT HERE BY ACCIDENT?

HE'S TELLING ME TO USE THE COIN TO MAKE A CALL.

...THIS COIN IS A SIGN FROM GOD.

AND TO CHANGE MY OWN DESTINY...

IS HE TELLING ME TO USE THIS TEN-YEN COIN TO TAKE HOLD OF MY DESTINY?

I ONLY HAVE ONE CHANCE.

BUT WHO SHOULD I CALL?

I JUST TESTED GOD.

IF I CALL THE WRONG PLACE, THEN IT'S ALL OVER.

IS HE TESTING ME NOW?

ALL RIGHT, THEN.

I ACCEPT YOUR CHAL-LENGE!!

...I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER IDEAS.

IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD TO CALL HOME— MY PARENTS AREN'T THERE.

IF THERE WAS ANYONE ELSE WHO COULD HELP ME, I WOULDN'T BE IN AN ORPHANAGE.

NO. IF THEY DON'T BELIEVE WHAT I TELL THEM...

...THEY'LL TAKE ME BACK TO THE INSTITUTION.

...SHOULD I CALL THE POLICE?

SIGN: POLICE

...TO CHANGE MY DESTINY...?

WHO IN THE WORLD CAN I CALL...

NGH ...!

GYU CLENCH

DAD...

...I WANT YOU TO GO TO...HIFUMI TAKANO-SENSEI.

HIFUMI TAKANO...

DAD...

...BUT THEY WON'T DO ME ANY GOOD WITHOUT A PHONE NUMBER.

I HAVE MONEY AND A PHONE BOOTH...

BUT DAD, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO REACH HIM.

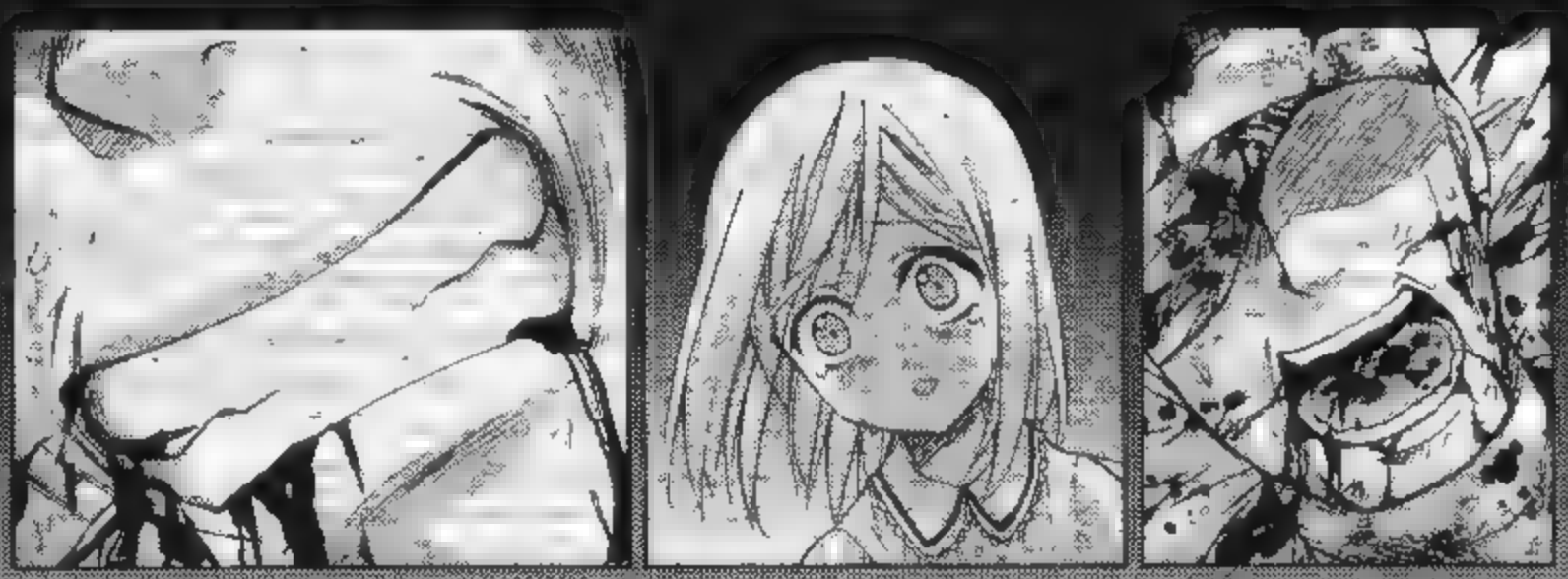
HE'S MY MENTOR.

HE'S SURE TO HELP YOU.

DOOO (BOOM)

PIKA (FLASH)

MIYOKO.



HE WAS TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING.

BACK AT THE HOSPITAL, DAD LOST HIS VOICE, BUT HE WAS STILL DESPERATELY MOVING HIS MOUTH.

THE WORDS DAD WAS TRYING TO SAY TO ME...

...NUM-BERS!

THEY WERE...

...TO TELL ME THAT STRING OF NUMBERS.

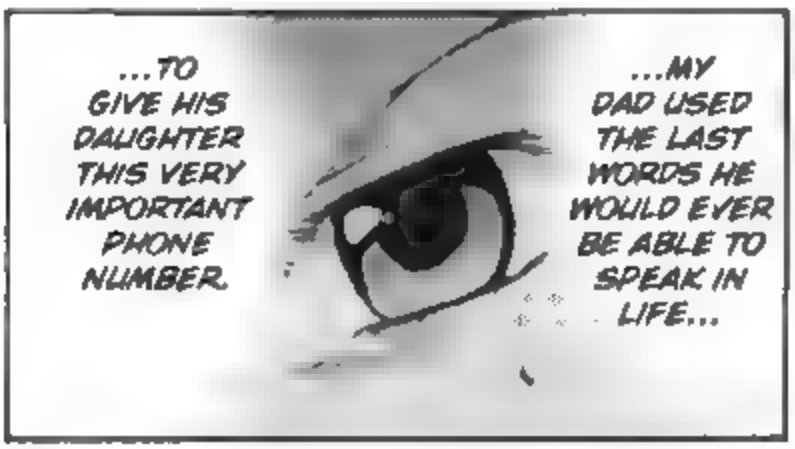
DAD RALLIED THE LAST OF HIS ENERGY...

REMEMBER! REMEMBER WHAT DAD SAID!

HIFUMI TAKANO-SENSEI'S PHONE NUMBER!!

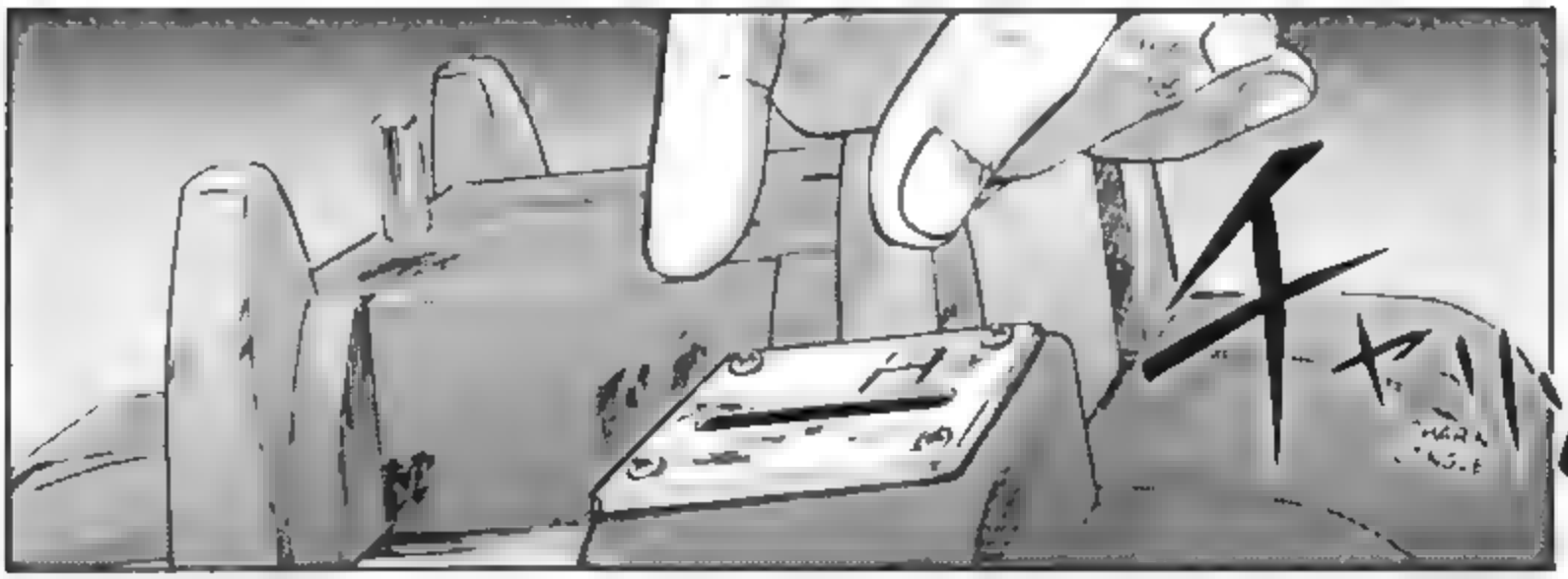


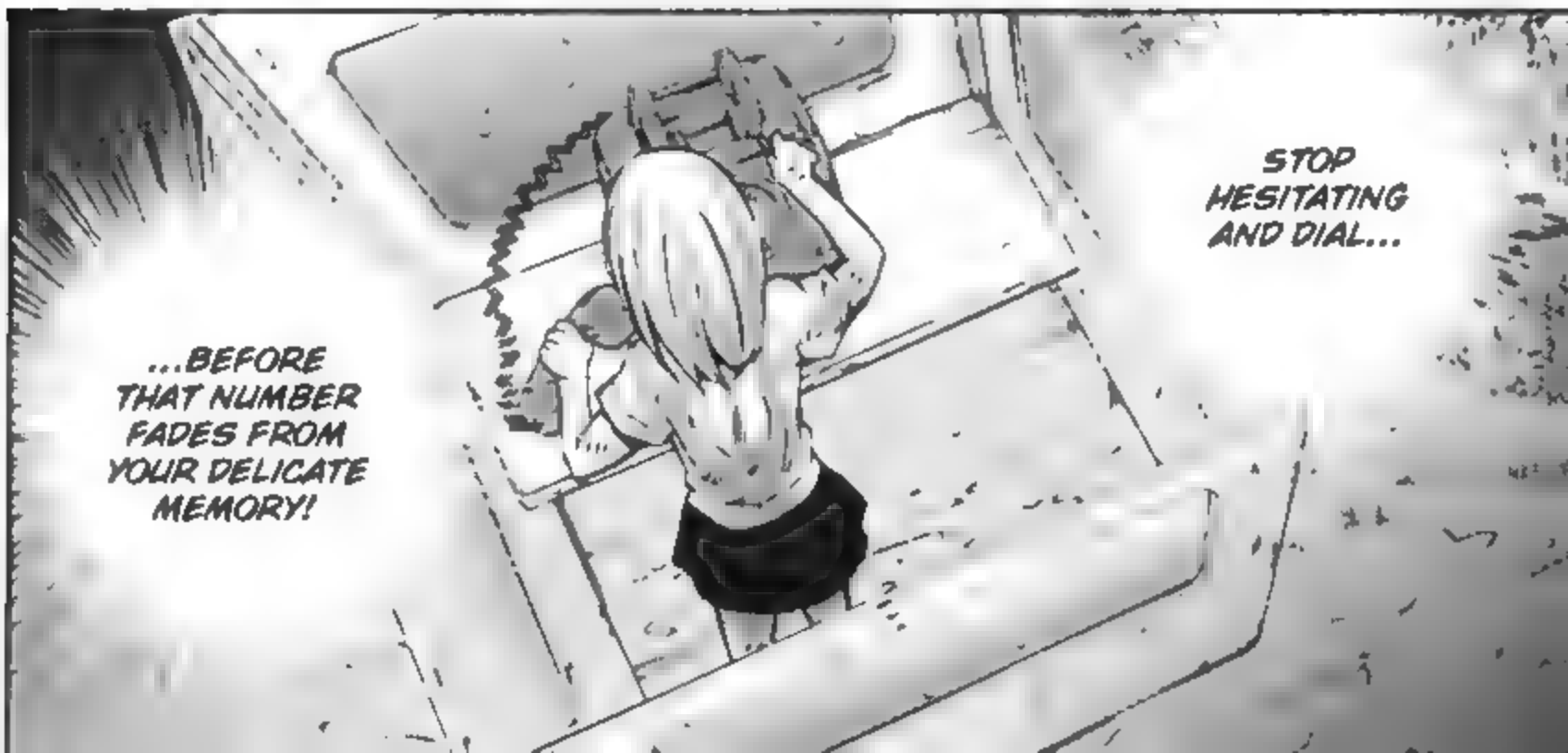
LABEL: INSERT COIN





IF I GET IT WRONG AND CALL THE WRONG HOUSE, I WON'T GET THE COIN BACK.
IF THERE'S EVEN THE SLIGHTEST FLAW IN MY MEMORY, IT'S ALL OVER.
...THIS IS MY ONLY COIN.





RRR

PLEASE!

RRRRR

...I'M GOING TO USE THIS COIN TO TURN ALL MY MISERY AROUND!

PICK UP...

RRR

Hello?
Takano
speaking.

A-AT LAST...

I...
I GOT
THROUGH
...

AH...

AT
LAST!
IT'S
HIM...!!

AH... UH, UM...

NO! IF I DON'T SPEAK UP, HE'LL GET SUSPI-CIOUS AND HANG UP!

BIKU (WINCE)

...Who's calling, please?

I-I'M MIYOKO TANASHI!

MY FATHER IS TAKEMITSU TANASHI.

Has something happened to Tanashi-kun...?

I'M HIS DAUGH-TER! MY FATHER TOLD ME TO CALL YOU...

Tanashi-kun! Ohhh!

... Tana-shi.

... Tana-shi.

...Oh!

...Hello? Miyoko-chan?

...AH...!

HOW CAN I GET HIM TO UNDERSTAND IN SUCH A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME?

...TEN YEN ONLY GIVES ME A FEW MINUTES TO TALK.

WHAT DO I DO? WHAT SHOULD I TELL HIM?

IN THAT CASE...

THE CALL MIGHT BE CUT OFF AFTER MY NEXT SENTENCE.

THERE'S NO TIME.

...I'LL GIVE HIM THE MESSAGE I MOST WANT HIM TO HEAR...!

SUU (HAAH)

HELP ME!

BAN (BAN)



FOUND YOU!!

GUI CYANK

EEEK!

ZUZA SKID

NOOOOOO!

BOOP

BOOP

BOOP

NO.

NO...

I FINALLY REACHED TAKANO-SENSEI!









I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID TO MY THUMB.

...!


miyoko

YORO (STAGGER)

DON (WHAM)

STOP DRAG-GING YOUR FEET!

AH... AHHH...

I FINALLY GOT AWAY.

I FINALLY MANAGED TO CONTACT TAKANO-SENSEI.

BUT NOW I'VE BEEN BROUGHT BACK HERE?

I RISKED MY LIFE TO ESCAPE... AND I FAILED.

I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY.
GAN GLANG
GAN
GAN
GAN
GAN
THE KIDS WHO TRIED TO ESCAPE WERE GIVEN TERRIBLE PUNISHMENTS.
SOME-ONE'S BEING PUN-ISHED...
TH-THERE IT IS AGAIN ...
BOSUN FWUMP
BOSUN
NOW THEY'RE GOING TO DO SOME-THING TERRIBLE TO ME.
THE THIRSTY DUCK. THE SQUASHED CATERPILLAR. THE PIG WITH ITS LEGS PLUCKED OFF.
H-HELP ME... MOM, DAD... TAKANO-SENSEI...!!

EEK !!!

BOSUN

BOSUN

...WHAT... IS THAT?

...HITTING THAT MAT WITH SHINAI?

WHY ARE THE MEN...

MGH ...

MMM- NNGH ...

WH-WHAT ARE THOSE SHOES DOING THERE...?

NO... IT CAN'T BE...

BOSUN

BOSUN

NNGH...

NN-MMH...

MMPH...

THERE'S A PERSON INSIDE THAT MAT!!

BOSUN (FWUMP)

BOSUN

MMM-MMH!

CHAPTER 4: BOND


Z
Z
Z

...AND NOW THEY'RE HITTING IT WITH SHINAI...

THEY ROLLED SOME-ONE UP IN THAT MAT...

スー スー

A-AHH..

EEK!!

...HOW COULD THEY BE SO CRUEL?

HOW...

WH-WHAT!?

WHA ...?

YOU

(Fl...

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

...AND THEY'RE RUNNING THE SHOWER OVER IT AND HITTING IT WITH PIPES...

THERE'S SOMEONE INSIDE THAT LOCKER TOO...

JUST THINKING ABOUT SPENDING SO MUCH TIME INSIDE THERE...

HOW LOUD MUST IT BE FROM THE INSIDE? AND HOW TERRIBLY MUST IT BE SHAKING...?

IT'S SO LOUD, EVEN FROM FAR AWAY.

KYAAA!

NEXT IS THIS WAY.

(GUI) (YANK)

AND I'M NEXT...

AH.

AAAH ...

DON WHAM

KO (CLUCK)

KOKKO

KO

KO

KO

KO

KO

KO

SKIPPING OUT ON YOUR CHICKEN COOP CLEANING DUTY, TRYING TO ESCAPE.

YOU'VE BEEN A BAD GIRL, TANASHI.

SO SHE HAD TO TAKE CARE OF THE CHICKENS ALL BY HERSELF.

"SH-SHE" ...?

HA (GASP)

THE CHICKENS ARE ALL GATHERED IN THE MIDDLE...

KOKKO

KOKK

KO

... WHAT IS THAT?

IS THAT...

...A HAND ...?

EEK!

WHAT?

WHY?

BIKU (WINCE)

THEY FED A PERSON TO THE CHICKENS !!

AAAH...

AAAAAAH!

...AND THAT HAIR...

AND...

AH... AAH...

ERIKOOOOO!!!

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

THEY MADE SURE SHE COULDN'T MOVE, THEN COVERED HER IN CHICKEN FEED.

THEY TIED HER FACEDOWN ON HER STOMACH.

THEY CAUGHT ERIKO TOO...

I'M... SOR... RY...

...AND PECKED HER ALL OVER WITH THEIR SHARP BEAKS—

SO THE CHICKENS CROWDED TOGETHER TO GET THE FOOD...

GUCHL (SPLAT)

ERI-KO!

BASA

BASA

BASA (FLAP)

E... ERI-KO...

YOU'RE COMING WITH ME, TANASHI.

(HI SMIRK)

I WON'T TRY TO ESCAPE EVER AGAIN!

PLEASE! SPARE ME!

YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME! DON'T KILL ME!

NOOOOO!


BY DON CHAM




PON (PAT)
...SINCE YOU SKIPPED OUT ON CLEANING THE CHICKEN COOP, YOU HAVE TO CLEAN THE TOILET.


WHY WOULD THERE BE A ROPE AT THE LATRINE?


...AND A ROPE...
A LA-TRINE ...

WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO USE THAT MOUTH...

...TO CLEAN UP ALL THE BUILDUP AT THE BOTTOM OF THE TOILET?

YOU HAVE THAT WONDERFUL MOUTH OF YOURS...

...THE ONE YOU USED TO BITE MY THUMB.

WHAT IS HE SAYING...?

EH...?

(YU (TUGH!)

AH... AH...?

SEE, THE CESSPOOL JUST STARTS STINKING SO BAD, I CAN HARDLY STAND IT.

NO...

THERE'S A LAYER OF EXCREMENT AT THE BOTTOM.

IS HE GOING TO PUT ME DOWN THERE...?

I'LL HELP YOU UNTIL YOU'RE ALL DONE.

YOU SHOULD THANK ME.

GU (SHOVE)

HE'S GOING TO PUT ME DOWN THERE!?

JRP UGH

IT'S DIRTY.

IT SMELLS.

PLEASE FOR-GIVE ME!!

BA (FWD)

I WON'T DO ANYTHING BAD EVER AGAIN! I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY!!

S-STOP!

GUGU (STRAIN)

DON (SHOVE)

EEK...

WHEN YOU LIVE IN A DEMOCRACY, YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW THE RULES.

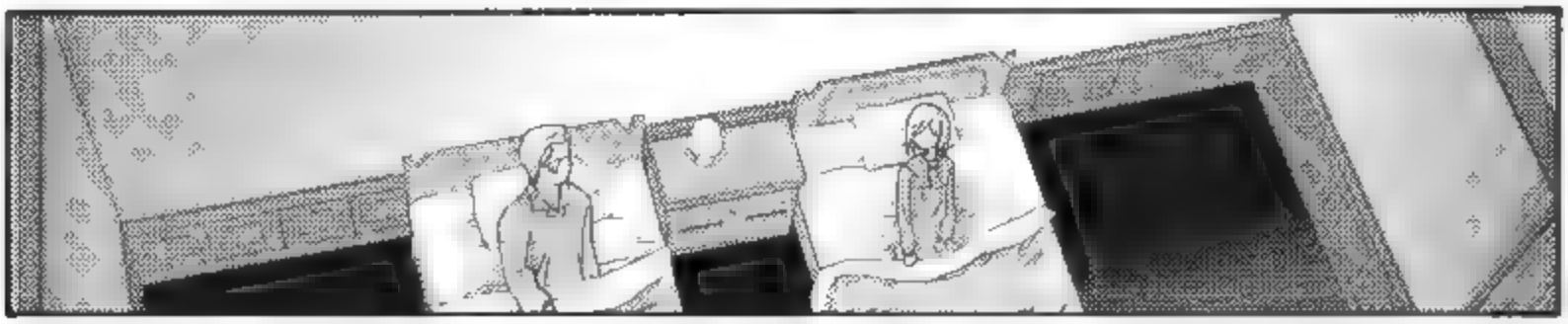
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS TO BAD CHILDREN WHO BREAK THE RULES OF THIS INSTITU-TION.

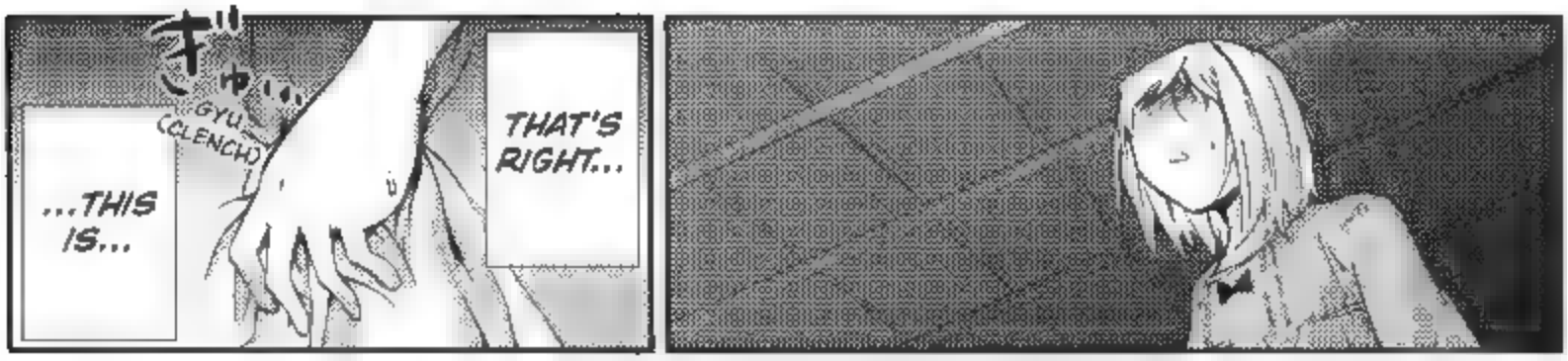
NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

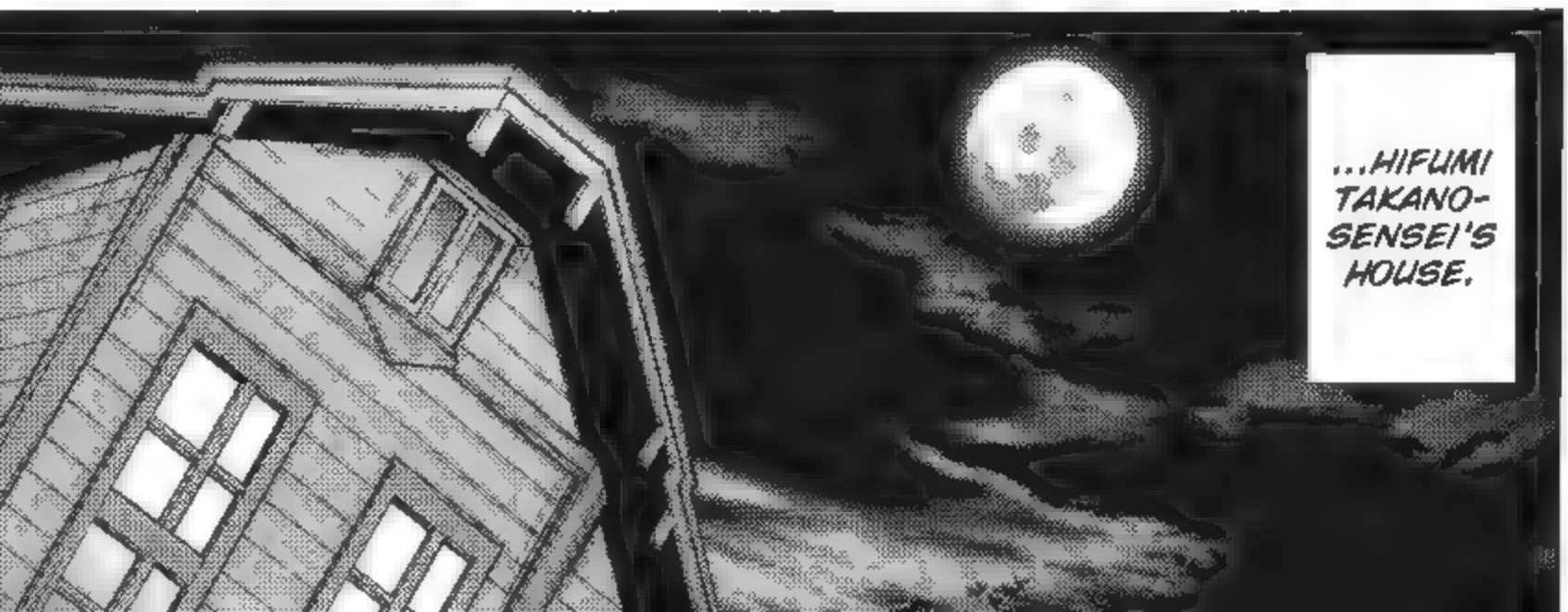

HA-
(GASP)


カッ
ドガ
ハァ
ハァ
ハァ

TAKANO-SENSEI...





TAKANO-SENSEI GOT MY PHONE CALL THAT NIGHT.

HE TRACKED DOWN THE FACILITY WHERE I WAS BEING KEPT...

...AND CAME TO MY RESCUE.

HE ADOPTED THE DIRTY, SMELLY, LITTLE GIRL.

THEN HE ADOPTED ME.

TA-KANO-SENSEI ...

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF HERE.

YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ANY-MORE.

... MIYO-CHAN.

MY FATHER'S MENTOR.

HIFUMI TAKANO-SENSEI...

...AND WORKED DESPER-ATELY TO FIND ME AND HELP ME.

HE HAD NEVER EVEN MET ME, BUT HE HEARD MY CRY FOR HELP...

HE SAVED MY LIFE.

HE'S A VERY KIND MAN.

BIKU (WINCE)

BUT...

SU (SSK)

AHH ...

N- NO...

NOOO...

MIYO-CHAN!?

NOOOOOO!!

BA (JUMP?)

!!!!

PLEASE! PLEASE!!

GATA

GATA

GATA (TRMBL)

GATA

I DON'T WANT TO HURT! DON'T HIT ME! DON'T BEAT ME!!

BUT TAKANO-SENSEI WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

I'M STILL AFRAID THAT HE'LL DO SOME-THING TERRIBLE TO ME.

I DID IT AGAIN.

OH NO.

...BUT IT ONLY MAKES ME FEEL LIKE SOME-ONE AS DIRTY AND SMELLY AS ME...

...DOESN'T BELONG HERE.

I FEEL LIKE THE FILTH AND THE SMELL HAVEN'T GONE AWAY.

I'VE WASHED MYSELF OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN...

カ＋カ＋カ＋…

Z z

YES, SIR...

NOW, EAT UP. YOU NEED YOUR NOURISH-MENT.

USE THAT WONDERFUL MOUTH OF YOURS TO CLEAN IT UP FOR ME...

...TANASHI.

KATA

KATA (TRMBL)

URK ...!

NN, NNNGH.

...UNTIL IT'S NICE AND CLEAN.

SWALLOW IT ALL...

GEBO (BLRGH)

B... BLGH ...

MIYO-CHAN !!

ボタ BOTA (DRIP)

ボタ BOTA

ガタン GATAN (CLATTER)

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MIYO-CHAN!?

NO... I'M DIRTY AND SMELLY AGAIN...

NOW SENSEI'S GOING TO HATE ME.

HE'LL TAKE ME BACK TO THE INSTITU-TION.

BA (SNATCH)

GOSHI (WIPE)

GOSHI

GATAN (CLATTER)

I KNOW I'M DIRTY, BUT IF I WIPE IT UP, IT'LL BE ALL CLEAN.

GASHA

GASHA (SCRUB)

I'LL CLEAN IT UP RIGHT AWAY!

I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!

SO PLEASE... PLEASE...

HAA

HAA (HUFF)

I CAN GET RID OF THE SMELL.

THEN IT WON'T SMELL BAD ANYMORE.

MIYO-CHAN...

PLEASE DON'T THROW ME OUT! PLEASE DON'T THROW ME OUT!

PLEASE...

PLEASE...

カナカナカナ...

KANA (CHIRP)

KANA

KANA

IT'S HOPELESS... ALL I EVER DO IS MAKE THINGS WORSE FOR TAKANO-SENSEI.

BIKU (WINCE)

MIYO-CHAN.

SO (SOFT)

EVEN TAKANO-SENSEI... WOULD HATE TO HAVE A GIRL LIKE ME FOR A DAUGHTER.

THE TAKANO BREATHING TECHNIQUE !!!

BUN (WHOOSH)

T-TAKANO-SENSEI !?

IT'S MY OWN BRAND OF CALIS-THENICS. I'M VERY PROUD OF IT.

BY LOOSENING UP YOUR BODY, YOU IMPROVE BLOOD AND LYMPH CIRCULATION, ALLOWING YOUR MIND TO RELAX.

ONE, TWO!

ONE, TWO!

NO, NO! TAKANO-SENSE!!

COME ON, DO IT WITH ME, MIYO-CHAN!

WAH! WAH! WAH!

HERE WE GO! ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR! TWO, TWO, THREE, FOUR!

OKAY, NOW! RELAX! RELAX!

W-WAH!

HYO! (YOINK)

COME NOW, MIYO-CHAN.

.....

DID THE TAKANO BREATHING TECHNIQUE HELP YOU FEEL BETTER?

WELL?

I DON'T WANT YOU TO EVER WORRY ABOUT THAT AGAIN.

HOW CAN YOU THINK I WOULD THROW YOU OUT?

SO I'M VERY HAPPY TO HAVE MET YOU, MIYO-CHAN.

...AND I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR FATHER'S ACCIDENT.

I LOST A LOT OF FRIENDS IN THE WAR...

WE MAY NOT BE RELATED BY BLOOD, MIYO-CHAN...

...BUT TANASHI-KUN USED HIS DYING BREATH TO ENTRUST YOU TO ME.

BUT I...

...I'M MAKING SO MUCH TROUBLE FOR YOU...

.....

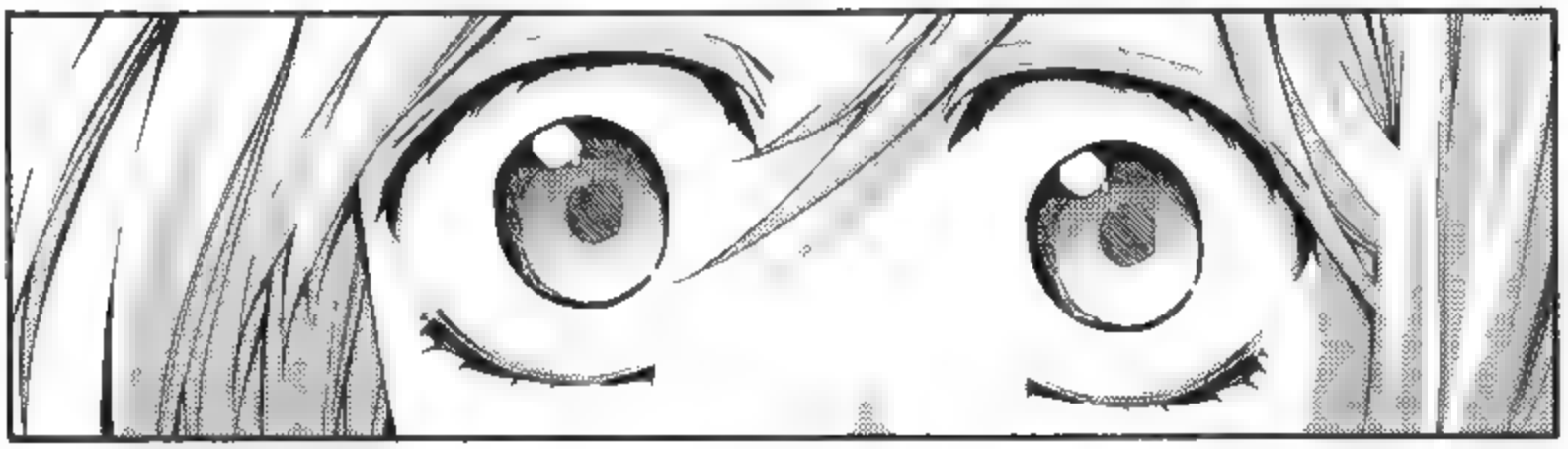
...YOU HAVE BEEN...

SO (SOFT)

SO SINCE THE MOMENT I TOOK YOU IN...

...HIFUMI TAKANO'S GRAND-DAUGHTER.

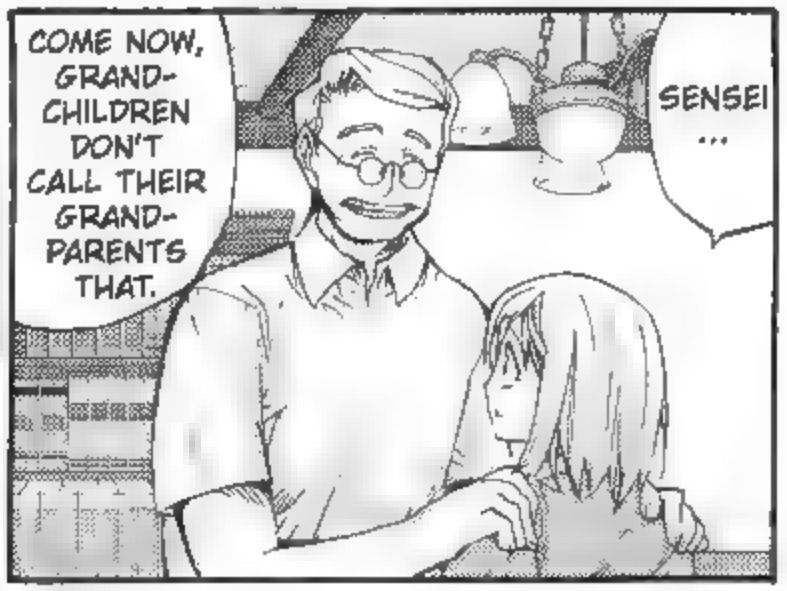
AND WHAT GRANDFATHER WOULD ABANDON HIS OWN GRANDCHILD?











THANK YOU...

...GRANDPA.

AND THAT'S... HOW I BECAME GRANDPA'S GRAND-DAUGHTER.

AND HE EVEN WORKED IT OUT SO I COULD GO TO SCHOOL.

I STARTED LIVING WITH GRANDPA.

HE GAVE ME KIND-NESS.

GRANDPA GAVE ME A SMILE.

THIS IS THE TAKANO BREATHING TECHNIQUE!

L-LIKE THIS...!?

SAAAAA
(FSHHH)

HMM?

WHAT IS IT, MIYO?

OOHH... LOOK, GRANDPA, LOOK!

...OHO!



THANKS TO GRANDPA...

...I STARTED TO LIVE AGAIN.

THOSE DAYS WERE BURSTING WITH SUCH HAPPINESS, I WAS ALMOST OVERWHELMED BY IT.

MIIIN (BuZZ)

MIN

MIN

THOSE WONDERFUL DAYS WITH GRANDPA CONTINUED.

SEE YOU LATER!

UWAH!

ガチャ (GACHA) KACHAK

I'M HOME...

IT'S ALL CLUTTERED AGAIN...

DOCHA (CLUTTER)

どちゃ…

BUT DO YOU EVER LET GO OF THAT FOUNTAIN PEN...?

APPARENTLY GRANDPA IS A RESEARCHER.

GRAND-PA!

OH! WEL-COME HOME, MIYO!

THAT'S OKAY. I DON'T MIND.

SORRY FOR CLUTTER-ING UP THE PLACE AGAIN.

HE SPENDS DAY AFTER DAY BATTLING WITH HIS PAPERS.

...BUT SOMETIMES, HE'LL BRING HIS RESEARCH OUT TO THE LIVING ROOM.

HE'S ALWAYS SHUT UP IN HIS ROOM.

HA-HA-HA. IT'S STILL A LITTLE COMPLICATED FOR YOU, MIYO, SO I'M GOING TO KEEP IT A SECRET.

HEY, GRANDPA. WHAT KIND OF RESEARCH DO YOU DO?

BUT ...

むぅ MUU (POUT)

...GRANDPA WON'T TELL ME WHAT HIS RESEARCH IS ABOUT.

カナカナカナ... KANA (CHIRP) KANA KANA

THEN ONE DAY...

I WANT TO KNOW EVERY-THING ABOUT GRANDPA...

I DON'T GET IT...

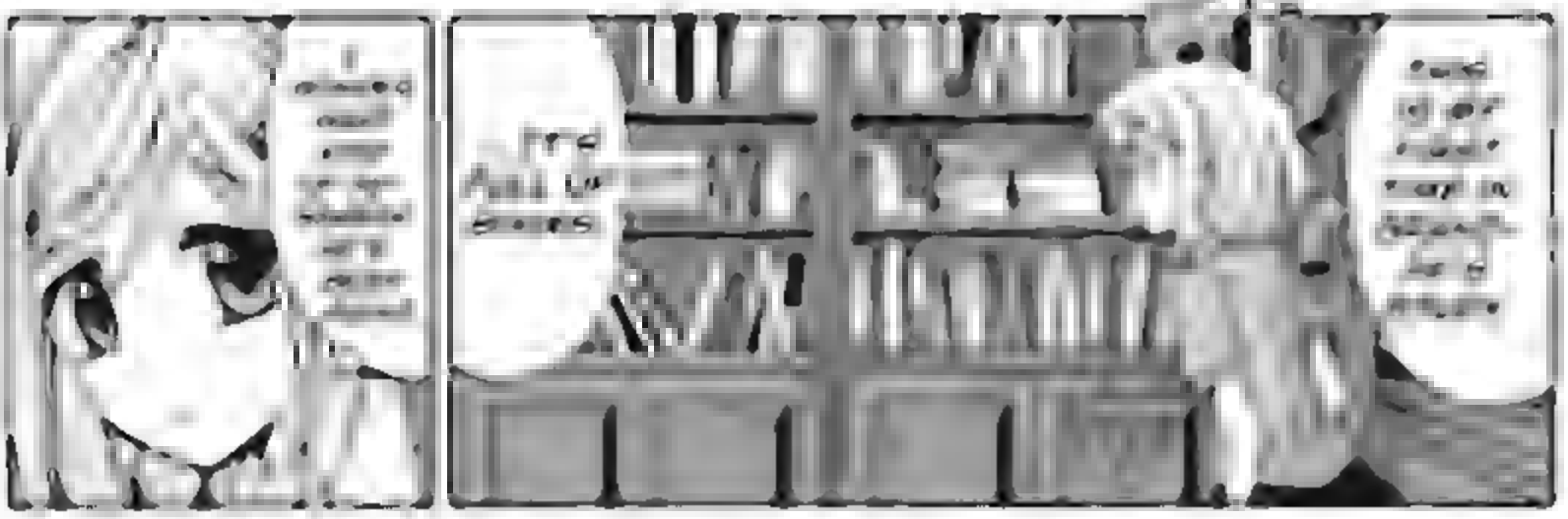
HE'S SUCH A MEANIE.

GRANDPA! TIME FOR DINNER!

IS HE ASLEEP ...?

I HAVE TO WAKE HIM UP AFTER ALL!

...HE TOLD ME NOT TO GO IN THE STUDY, BUT IT SHOULD BE OKAY.







I KEPT IT A SECRET BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO SCARE YOU

ゴ"ク

GRANDPA, WHAT IN THE WORLD...

WHAT KIND OF RESEARCH HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?

I'M TRYING TO UNDER-STAND A CERTAIN DISEASE.

A DISEASE NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT YET.

G-GRANDPA, WHAT IS ALL THIS?

PARASITE SPECIMENS. I NEED THEM FOR MY RESEARCH.

OH, MIYO. SO YOU JUST COULDN'T STAY OUT, EH?

WH... WHAT'S ...?

IT'S CALLED HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME...?

ZABAAAN (SPLASH)

CHAPON (SPLISH)

HINAMI-ZAWA SYN-DROME...

SO THAT'S WHAT GRANDPA'S BEEN STUDYING.

THE DISEASE IS CAUSED BY A PARASITE IN THE BRAIN...

...A PARASITE THAT CAN CONTROL PEOPLE'S MINDS. IT'S AN UNPRECEDENTED ILLNESS.

THE DISEASE ONLY AFFECTS PEOPLE IN A REGION CALLED HINAMIZAWA. IF I CAN UNDERSTAND IT...

...THEN OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE HUMAN BRAIN WILL INCREASE BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS.

IT'S MY DREAM.

GRANDPA'S DREAM...

BUT YOU SEE...

.....

...I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE RESEARCH ALL ON MY OWN.

IT WOULD BE NICE IF I COULD HAVE SOMEONE TO HELP ME PROGRESS TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

チャポッ...

AT THIS RATE, GRANDPA'S DREAM WILL NEVER COME TRUE...

...SO IT ISN'T GOING VERY WELL.

GRANDPA'S RESEARCH IS SO SPECIALIZED THAT THERE'S NO ONE ELSE WHO STUDIES IT...

I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO HELP HIM.

GRANDPA SAVED MY LIFE AND GAVE ME HAPPINESS.

.....

IF HE HAD LUNG DISEASE, I WOULD GIVE HIM MY LUNGS.

IF ANY OF HIS ORGANS WERE MALFUN-TIONING, I WOULD GIVE HIM MINE.

IF HE DEVELOPED HEART DISEASE...

...I WOULDN'T HESITATE TO GIVE HIM MY HEART.

THERE'S NO ROOM FOR UN-CERTAINTY.

...THAT'S RIGHT.

IF GRANDPA NEEDS SOMEONE TO HELP HIM WITH HIS RESEARCH...

...THEN I'LL HELP GRANDPA WITH HIS RESEARCH!

ザバッ

ZABA (SPLASH)

THEN I CAN MAKE GRANDPA'S DREAM COME TRUE.

I'LL WALK THE SAME PATH AS GRANDPA.

I'LL STUDY ALL I CAN AND GET INTO A GOOD COLLEGE.

I'LL BECOME A RE-SEARCHER OF HINAMI-ZAWA SYNDROME.

ガチャ…
GACHA (KACHAK)

...MIYOKO TAKANO.

I'VE BEEN HIFUMI TAKANO'S GRAND-DAUGHTER ...

I'M NOT MIYOKO TANASHI ANY-MORE.

SINCE THE DAY GRANDPA GAVE ME THIS LIFE...

...OH, BUT GRANDPA ALWAYS CALLS ME MIYO.

SO I'LL BE MIYO TAKANO.

THAT NAME ALONE ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH.

GU (CLENCH)

...NO, THAT'S NO GOOD.

I'M NOT JUST HIS GRAND-DAUGHTER.

I WANT TO BE SOMETHING MORE THAN THAT.

WE MAY NOT BE RELATED BY BLOOD...

BUT SINCE MY GRANDFATHER'S NAME COUNTS UP TO THREE—"HI, FU, MI"—ONE, TWO, THREE...

...THEN I'LL SHARE THE THREE—"MI"—WITH MY GRANDFATHER AND GO ON TO FOUR—"YO."

I WILL CARRY ON HIS LEGACY. THAT'S WHO I WANT TO BE.

I'LL PUT THAT BOND INTO THE CHARAC-TERS OF MY NAME.

FROM NOW ON, MY NAME WILL BE...

高野豆腐



SU (SSK)

BUT IT ALL STARTS NOW.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE "HINAMIZAWA" IS.

GRANDPA'S RESEARCH, HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

FROM NOW ON, MIYO TAKANO WILL JOIN HER GRANDFATHER...

...AND DEVOTE HER ENTIRE LIFE TO HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME!!

©Ryukishi07/Takuto Kashiki/Kodansha, Yahtzee & Overlook
"Higurashi When They Cry"

# ABOUT THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC": THE BEGINNING OF THE MIRACLE

## ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHI07

HELLO, I'M RYUKISHI07.

THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC" IS THE FINAL ARC OF *HIGURASHI: WHEN THEY CRY*, AND IT DEMONSTRATES HOW MUCH MIRACULOUS POWER CAN BE CREATED BY BELIEVING IN EACH OTHER AND WORKING TOGETHER.

IN THAT SENSE, THIS FINAL ARC IS THE IDEAL STORY, IN A WAY, AND THE STORY OF THE FINAL BATTLE.

WILL RIKA FURUDE AND HER FRIENDS MANAGE TO MAKE IT SAFELY PAST JUNE 1983? HOW WILL THE FINAL BATTLE END?
...TO TELL THAT STORY, THE ARC HAS TO JOURNEY BACK IN TIME.

WHAT YOU'VE JUST READ DEPICTS THE CHILDHOOD OF A KEY CHARACTER, MIYO TAKANO. BY SEEING HER UPBRINGING AND HER FEELINGS AND LEARNING ABOUT HER STRENGTH, YOU CAN ALL DISCOVER, LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE TRUTH BEHIND THIS STORY.

A BELIEVING HEART CALLS FORTH MIRACLES. IN THAT CASE, HER STRONG FEELINGS HAVE THE POWER TO CALL FORTH MIRACLES AS WELL.

I HOPE YOU WILL ALL WATCH AS MIYO TAKANO BRINGS ABOUT HER MIRACLES.




-SPECIAL THANKS-

-ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR-
RYUKISHI07-SAMA, BT-SAMA,
YATAZAKURA-SAMA

-MY EDITORS-
KOIZUMI-SAMA, KOUNO-SAMA

-MY STAFF-
ERINA-SAMA, TANA-SAMA, SHIGETOMO TANAKURA-SAMA, NAYU Y-SAMA, NIWAKO-SAMA, BANCHO-SAMA, TOMOKA FURUTA-SAMA, RICO-SAMA, YF-SAMA, YO-SHUN-SAMA

AND YOU!


THANK YOU FOR READING THIS FAR. VOLUME 1 IS ALL ABOUT MIYOKO! I LOVE MIYOKO WHEN SHE'S BEING CUTE AND WHEN SHE'S BEING SCARY. THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING" STARTS RIGHT AWAY WITH A CLIMACTIC SITUATION, BUT WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN. THIS IS THE PROLOGUE TO THE PROLOGUE. THE NEXT PART OF THE STORY IS GOING TO BE JUST AS EXCITING, SO IF IT'S ALL RIGHT, PLEASE STAY WITH US TO THE VERY END.

KARIN SUZURAGI


Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC

# CHAPTER 5: DON'T STEP ON IT!

MIIIN (BUZZ)
MIN
MIN
MIN
MIN

GRANDPA, I'M DONE SORTING ALL YOUR PAPERS.

PASA (RUSTLE)

ALL THESE PEOPLE HAVE THE SAME SYMPTOMS.

HMM, JUST AS I SUS-PECTED ...!

...NOW THEN, WHAT HAVE WE COME UP WITH?

THANK YOU, MIYO.

ぽん

PON (PAT)

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP, MIYO.

MY WISH IS TO BE USEFUL TO GRANDPA.

I WANT TO CARRY ON HIFUMI TAKANO'S LEGACY.

...I WANT TO HELP HIM EVEN MORE.

AND BECAUSE I OWE HIM MY LIFE...

...AND MADE ME HAPPY TO BE ALIVE AGAIN. I OWE HIM MY LIFE.

GRANDPA RESCUED ME FROM THAT HORRIBLE ORPHAN-AGE...

I WILL DEVOTE EVERYTHING I HAVE TO RESEARCHING HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME WITH MY GRAND-FATHER.

NOW MY NAME IS MIYO TAKANO.

SO I RENOUNCED THE NAME MIYOKO TANASHI.

MIIIN (BUZZ)

MIN

MIN

MIN

THAT IS WHAT MY GRAND-FATHER IS STUDYING.

IT IS A DISEASE CAUSED BY A PARASITE THAT LIVES IN A PERSON'S BRAIN AND CONTROLS HIS OR HER MIND.

HINAMI-ZAWA SYN-DROME.

THE PARASITE LIVES IN THE BRAINS OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN A REGION CALLED HINA-MIZAWA.

WHEN THE VICTIMS' EMOTIONS ARE SHAKEN ...

...THEY BECOME PARANOID AND SUSPI-CIOUS OF THOSE AROUND THEM AND LASH OUT VIOLENTLY.

IN HINA-MIZAWA, THEY REFER TO THIS PHENOM-ENON AS "OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE."

WHEN THE SYMPTOMS MANIFEST, THE VICTIMS ATTACK OTHERS...

...AND EVENTUALLY DIE BY SCRATCHING OUT THEIR OWN THROATS. IT'S A TERRIBLE SICKNESS.

IF WE CAN FIGURE OUT HOW THE DISEASE WORKS...

...THEN OUR RESEARCH WILL BE REVOLUTION-ARY IN EXPLAINING THE WORKINGS OF THE HUMAN BRAIN.

THAT'S WHAT GRANDPA BELIEVES AND WHY HE WORKS SO HARD, DAY IN AND DAY OUT.

I HOPE THEY ACKNOWL-EDGE YOUR WORK SOON, GRAND-PA.

OH, DON'T BE IN SUCH A HURRY, MIYO.

BUT THE ACADEMIC WORLD ADA-MANTLY REJECTS ...

...THE NOTION OF A PARASITE THAT CAN CONTROL PEOPLE'S MINDS.

THAT'S WHY HE HAS TO DO SO MUCH RESEARCH— TO GET THEM TO ACKNOWL-EDGE THE DISEASE'S EXISTENCE.

THE LORD WILL NOT ABANDON ANYONE WHO WORKS HARD.

ONE DAY, EVERYONE WILL SEE THAT MY RESEARCH IS LEGITI-MATE.

EVEN IF THAT DAY COMES AFTER I DIE.

YOU MEAN THEY MIGHT NOT RECOGNIZE YOUR WORK UNTIL AFTER YOU DIE?

ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?

EH...?

AFTER YOU DIE, GRANDPA?

MIYO, DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST?

THE RESUR-RECTION OF JESUS CHRIST?

RIGHT BEFORE HE WAS EXECUTED, JESUS CHRIST PROPHESIED THAT HE WOULD RISE AGAIN ON THE THIRD DAY AFTER HIS DEATH.

AND JUST AS HE PROPH-ESIED, HE WAS RESUR-RECTED ON THE THIRD DAY.

HOW DO YOU THINK HE WAS RESUR-RECTED?

HMMM ...

...DID HE CRAWL OUT FROM UNDER HIS GRAVESTONE THREE DAYS LATER?

HA-HA-HA. THAT'S NOT A RESUR-RECTION.

...BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE AUTHORI-TIES WHO HAD HIM KILLED BE-LIEVED.

THEY PLACED GUARDS IN FRONT OF HIS TOMB TO KEEP WATCH SO THAT JESUS'S BODY COULDN'T COME OUT.

BUT THE RESURREC-TION THAT CHRIST SPOKE OF...

...DIDN'T REFER TO A REVIVAL OF THE FLESH.

JESUS WAS REVIVED INSIDE THEIR HEARTS, AND THUS HE WAS RESURRECTED.

AFTER THREE DAYS, THE PEOPLE RECLAIMED THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST.

AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, THEN EVEN IF I'M DEAD, MY EXISTENCE WILL BE REVIVED.

WHEN PEOPLE SEE THE TRUTH OF MY RESEARCH, THEN MY RESEARCH WILL BE RESUR-RECTED.

...REVIVED INSIDE THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE...

THAT'S RIGHT. WHEN PEOPLE ACKNOWL-EDGE MY RESEARCH ...

...DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU...

...WILL BECOME A GOD, LIKE JESUS CHRIST DID?

...YOUR GRANDPA WILL BECOME A GOD.

EVEN IF I'M ALREADY DEAD.

...GRANDPA WILL BECOME A GOD...

...I WANT PEOPLE TO ACCEPT GRANDPA'S RESEARCH WHILE HE'S STILL ALIVE!

...THAT'S WHAT GRANDPA SAYS, BUT...

GYU (SQUEEZE)

キリ

キリ...

.....

SO FOR NOW, I KEEP WORKING AT IT. THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH.

I KNOW GRANDPA HARDLY EVEN SLEEPS BECAUSE HE'S SO BUSY WITH HIS RESEARCH.

HE CAN'T...

HE CAN'T DIE BEFORE PEOPLE ACCEPT HIS WORK.

カナカナカナ.

KANA (CHIRP)

KANA

KANA

MIIN (BUZZ)
MIN
MIN
MIN

TAKANO-KUN!

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

HAVE YOU NOW? YOU'VE BEEN BLESSED WITH A WONDERFUL GRAND-DAUGHTER, TAKANO-KUN!

...I GREW... UM... TWO CENTI-METERS.

JUST HOW TALL ARE YOU NOW?

AND LOOK HOW YOU'VE GROWN, MIYO-CHAN!

HEY NOW! NONE OF THIS "COLONEL" BUSINESS!

COLONEL KOIZUMI-DONO! HOW HAVE YOU BEEN!!

BAN BAN (SLAP)

THIS IS KOIZUMI-SAN.

GRANDPA'S ONE AND ONLY CLOSE FRIEND.

...BUT HE ALWAYS REFERS TO ME AS GRANDPA'S GRAND-DAUGHTER. HE'S A NICE MAN.

KOIZUMI-SAN KNOWS THAT I'M ADOPTED...

APPARENTLY [redacted] MET HIM IN THE MILITARY...

...AND HE'S STILL A PRETTY IMPORTANT PERSON.

BUT THAT'S THE DIF-FICULTLY WITH PRIVATE RE-SEARCH.

IT WOULD BE NICE IF THINGS COULD GO FASTER.

YES! IT IS MOST CERTAINLY GOING FORWARD.

BY THE BY, TAKANO-KUN...

...ARE YOU MAKING ANY PROGRESS IN YOUR RESEARCH?

...ABOUT THAT RE-SEARCH ...

カチャ KACHA (CLINK)

SAY, TAKANO-KUN...

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ABOUT SHOWING IT TO SOME HIGH-RANKING SCHOLARS?

EH...?

THEY ABSO-LUTELY LOVED IT.

THEY WERE SO IMPRESSED, THEY SAID IT COULD BE WORTHY OF A NOBEL PRIZE!

GATAN (CLATTER)

I SHOWED A REPORT OF YOURS TO SOME ACADEMIC BIGWIGS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, KOIZUMI-SAN?

...IF ALL GOES WELL, YOU COULD GET COLLABORATORS AND SPONSORS ALL IN ONE SHOT! IT'S A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTU-NITY!

THE PROFESSORS SAY THAT THEY WANT TO COME SUNDAY, WEEK AFTER NEXT, AND HAVE YOU TELL THEM ALL ABOUT IT.

WOW, GRAND-PA!

WH-WH-WHAT!? REALLY?

THIS WILL TAKE MY RESEARCH A STEP FORWARD.

TH... THANK YOU...

I'LL COME SEE YOU THAT WEEKEND.

IF IT ALL WORKS OUT, WE'LL CELEBRATE WITH SOME WINE.

*EVERYONE WILL ACKNOWL-EDGE HIM...!*

*NOW PEOPLE WILL UNDERSTAND GRANDPA'S RESEARCH!*

KARI (SCRITCH)

KARI

KARI

MIIIN (BUZZ)

MIN

MIN

MIN

KARI

KARI

KARI

KARI (SCRITCH)

KARI

THE THESIS IS PAGES AND PAGES LONG—DIVIDED INTO CHAPTERS AND EVERYTHING. ...IT MUST TAKE AN AWFUL LOT OF TIME.

HE DOESN'T WANT TO INSULT ANY OF THE SCHOLARS, SO HE'S DRAWING UP A COPY OF HIS THESIS FOR EVERYONE WHO'S GOING TO BE THERE.

...BUT IT MUST BE HARD HAND COPYING A THESIS FOR EVERY ONE OF THEM.

YOU'VE GOTTEN PRETTY FAR, GRAND-PA...

IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO TO GET THEM TO UNDER-STAND THE FULL POTENTIAL OF MY RESEARCH.

OH, THIS IS NOTHING.

PEOPLE ARE GOING TO UNDERSTAND HIS WORK. HE MUST BE SO HAPPY HE CAN HARDLY CONTAIN HIMSELF.

PATAN

GRANDPA'S BEEN WRITING OUT HIS THESIS FOR DAYS WITHOUT SLEEP.

I HAVE TO WORK HARDER TOO!

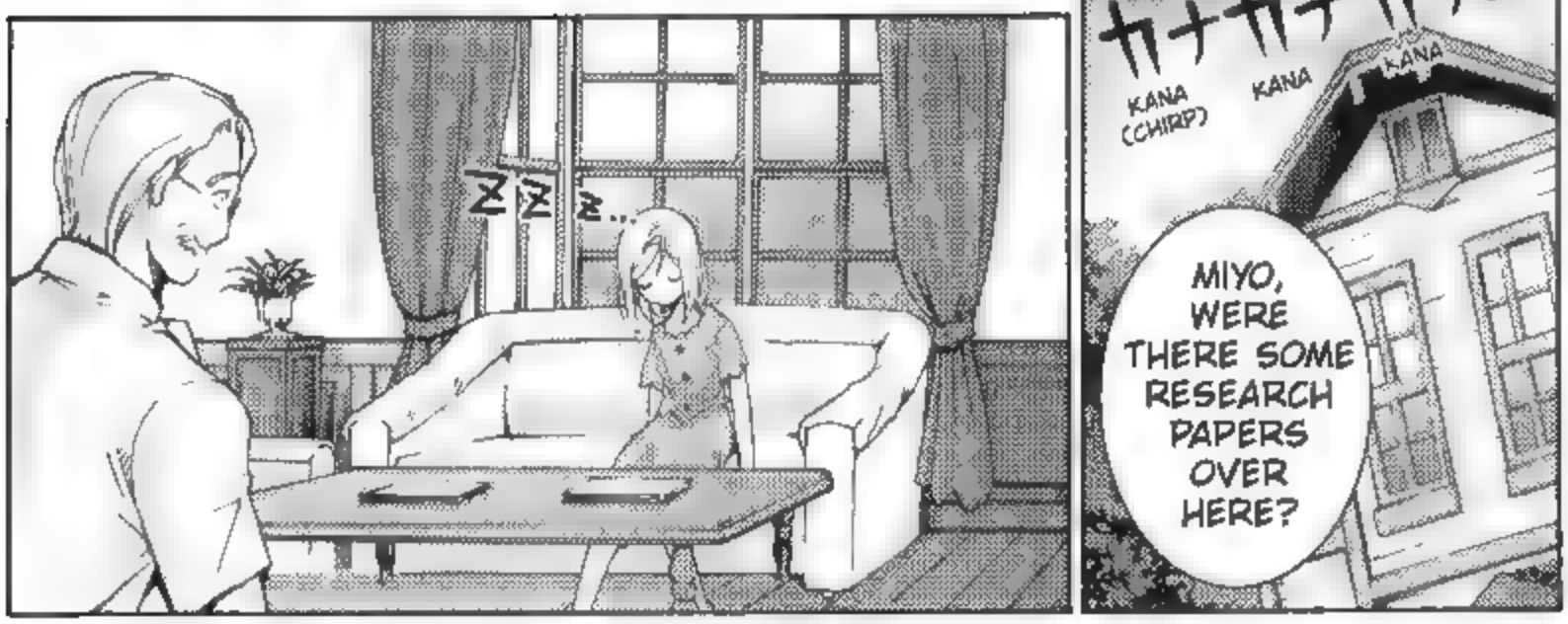
THEN HIS DREAM CAN COME TRUE.

IF HIS PRESENTATION SUCCEEDS, GRANDPA WILL HAVE PEOPLE TO HELP HIM.

THERE'S A LOT FOR ME TO DO TOO!

ORGANIZING PAPERS, CLEANING ROOMS...

...MAKING SURE THERE ARE CUPS FOR ALL THE GUESTS, MAKING SNACKS TO GO WITH THE TEA...


ZZZ...
カナカナカナ...
KANA (CHIRP)
KANA
KANA
MIYO, WERE THERE SOME RESEARCH PAPERS OVER HERE?


SO (SOFT)

PLEASE LET THE DAY OF THE PRESEN-TATION...

...BE ONE FOR GRANDPA TO REMEMBER.

I HELD THAT WISH IN MY HEART AS TWO WEEKS PASSED.

AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, IT WAS THE DAY OF THE PRESENTA-TION!

HYJUU (WHOOSH)

ヒュウウウ...

(HYUOOO (WHOOOSH)

ヒュオオオ…

HIFUMI TAKANO-SENSEI, I PRE-SUME?

WELCOME TO MY HUMBLE HOME, GENTLE-MEN!

...UM, AND WHERE IS KOIZUMI-SENSEI?

AND I LOOK FOR-WARD TO SHARING WITH YOU.

WE'VE COME TO SEE YOU AT THE RECOMMEN-DATION OF A MR. KOIZUMI.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY TODAY.

...HE HAD SOME URGENT BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.

HE COULDN'T MAKE IT TODAY.

THESE MEN SCARE ME...

THAT'S TOO BAD.

...I SEE.

ZAAAAA (ZSHHH)

SHUWAWAWA

SHUWAWAWAWA (BUBBLE)

...I'M NOT THE ONE MAKING THE PRESENTA-TION...BUT I'M STILL NERVOUS.

...GRANDPA IS READING HIS THESIS FOR THE MEN.

KOIZUMI-SAN SAID THAT THE ACADEMIC PEOPLE LIKED GRANDPA'S RESEARCH.

...IT'S OKAY. DON'T WORRY, MIYO TAKANO!

THE PEOPLE HERE TODAY ARE GRANDPA'S FUTURE COLLABORA-TORS.

...SO THAT THEY'LL LIKE GRAND-PA'S RE-SEARCH EVEN MORE.

カチッ KACHI (CLICK)

...I HAVE TO PUT MY WHOLE HEART INTO BEING A GOOD HOST-ESS.

シュー SHUN (PUFF)

シュー SHUN

PLEASE LET GRANDPA'S PRESENTA-TION...

カチャ KACHA (KACHAK)

...BE A SUCCESS!

BAN (BAM)

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, TAKANO-SENSEI.

WHAT?

EH?

BASA (RUSTLE)

GRANDPA'S THESIS...

...IS STREWN ALL OVER THE ROOM?

HA! HA! HA! HA!

B-BUT THERE HAVE BEEN COUNTLESS REPORTS! NUMEROUS CASES IN WHICH A PARASITE INTERFERED WITH ITS HOST'S BEHAVIOR.

TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, IT'S A DELUSION! YOU COULD EVEN SAY THE NOTION ITSELF IS DOWNRIGHT DANGEROUS.

NO PARASITE COULD POSSIBLY CONTROL SOMETHING AS ADVANCED AS THE HUMAN BRAIN!

A PARASITE CONTROLLING PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS? IT'S UTTERLY ABSURD!

HEH! HEH! HEH!

HA! HA!

PERHAPS YOU ARE SO ENAMORED WITH HINAMIZAWA'S UNIQUE RELIGION...

...THAT YOU YOURSELF HAVE RUN AFOUL OF ITS CURSE?

IF YOU'LL PARDON MY SAYING SO, ARE YOU SURE YOU AREN'T DELUSIONAL, TAKANO-SENSEI?

YOU TAKE A LEGEND ABOUT A CURSE AND TIE IT TO PARASITE-INDUCED DELUSIONS...

HA! HA! HA!

HA! HA! HA!

...TO MAKE US BELIEVE THAT HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME REALLY EXISTS.

THE CLINICAL DATA YOU'VE COLLECTED ISN'T ENOUGH...

A PARASITE'S NUMBER ONE OBJECTIVE IS THE PROPAGATION OF IT'S OWN SPECIES.

YOU SEEM TO BE FORGETTING ONE CRITICAL THING, TAKANO-SENSEI.

BESIDES, THE BASIS FOR A BELIEF IN A BRAIN PARASITE AND ALL THE SUPPORTING EVIDENCE ARE VERY WEAK.

WHA ...?

...WE'VE DONE AUTOPSIES ON SOLDIERS FROM HINAMIZAWA WHO DIED ON THE FIELD.

N-NO, YOU SEE...

HA! HA! HA!

HA! HA! HA!

HA! HA! HA!

ALL THE MEN HERE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE HIS FELLOW RESEARCH-ERS.

WHAT... WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?

...THEY'RE LOOKING DOWN ON HIM, MOCKING HIM...

BUT AFTER ALL OF GRANDPA'S HARD WORK, DEVOTING HIS LIFE TO HIS RESEARCH...

GU (CLENCH)

HOW COULD THEY BE SO...?

KACHA (CLINK)

カチ

THAT'S TER-RIBLE.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT SELF-PUBLISHING IT.

YOUR THESIS IS VERY ORIGINAL— THE PUBLIC WOULD EAT IT UP.

HA-HA-HA!

I APOLOGIZE FOR TAKING UP YOUR VALUABLE TIME.

GENTLE-MEN.

WE WERE ABLE TO GIVE YOU SOME MUCH-NEEDED ADVICE.

IT MAY HAVE BEEN FRUITLESS, BUT WE WERE RIGHT TO COME HERE.

Su (SSK)

...I SEE.

I THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR TROUBLE COMING OUT HERE TODAY. I DON'T FEEL I NEED TO TROUBLE YOU ANY FURTHER.

—!!

IT WAS TRULY A FASCINATING LITTLE THEORY.

THOUGH ADVANCEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC WORLD WOULD BE A BREEZE IF THIS WERE COUNTED AS CREDIBLE RESEARCH.

GUSHA (CRUMPLE)

NGH ...!

... GH ...

... GRANDPA'S THESIS...

GUSHA

...G...

GUSHA

GUSHA


MIYO...!
GL (GRAB)
...HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
DON'T STEP ON GRANDPA'S THESIS!
DON'T STEP ON THAT!

STOP THAT, MIYO.

DON'T STEP ON IT! DON'T STEP ON IT!

DON'T TRAMPLE ALL OVER IT!!

GRANDPA WORKED REALLY HARD TO WRITE THAT!

HE WROTE THEM BY HAND!

HE WROTE EVERY ONE OF THOSE SO CARE-FULLY!

GUI

GUI (TUG)

GUI

GRANDPA STAYED UP ALL NIGHT WRITING THAT OUT!

...MEANS EVERY-THING TO HIM!!

GUI

GUI

THAT THESIS ...

DON'T TRAMPLE GRAND-PA'S THESIS!!

DON'T STEP ON IT! DON'T STEP ON IT!!

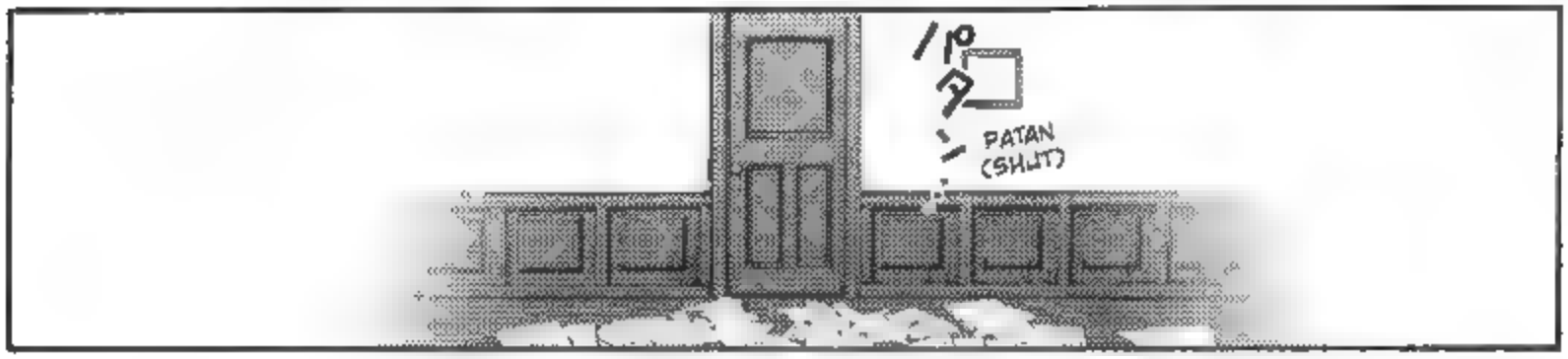
PAN (SLAP)

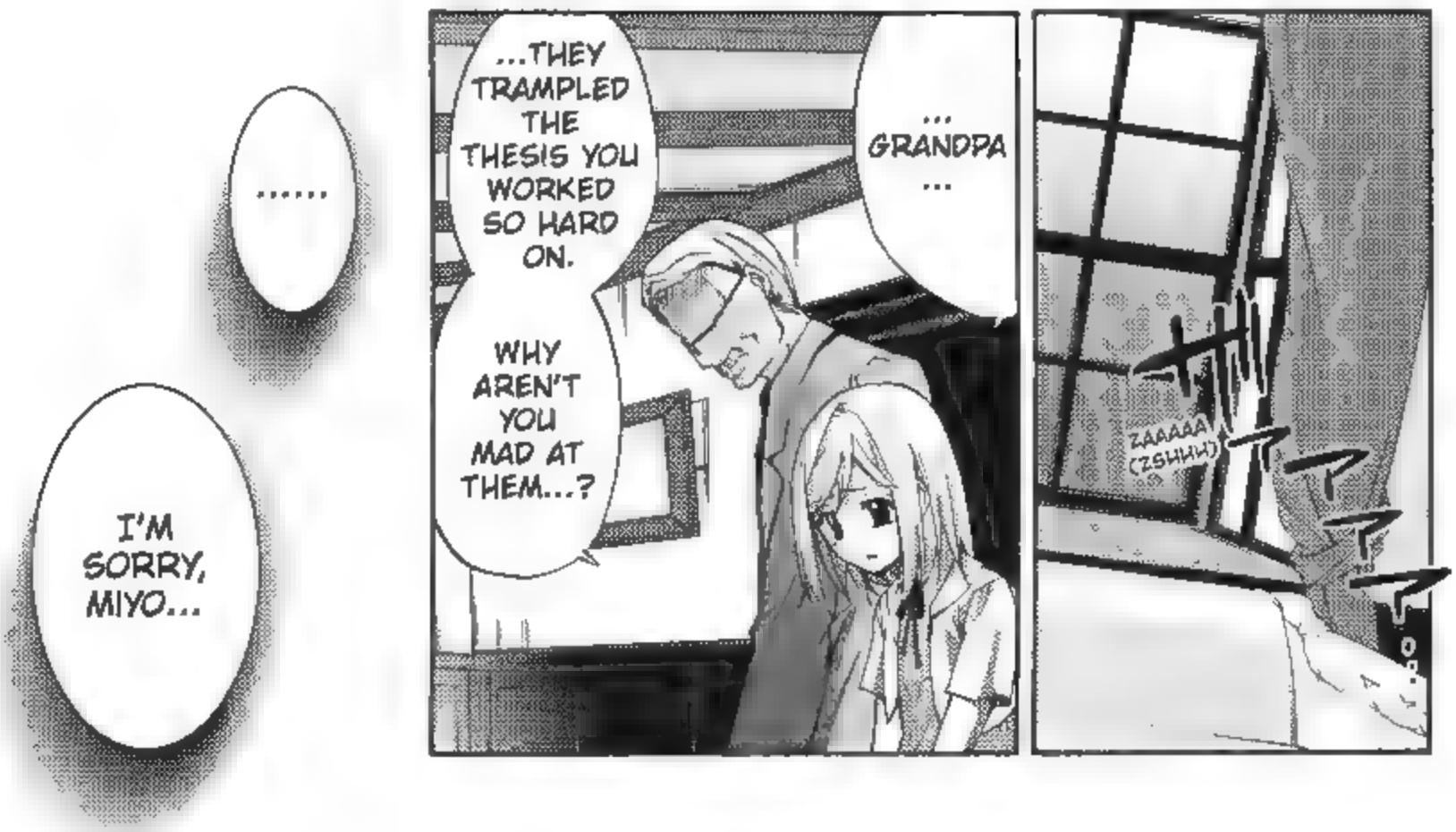



HMPH


DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE PAPERS. JUST GO.
WE'LL CLEAN IT ALL UP.
...PLEASE EXCUSE MY GRAND-DAUGH-TER.
GUI (TUG)


GUSHA (CRUMPLE)


PATAN (SHUT)


.....
I'M SORRY, MIYO...
...THEY TRAMPLED THE THESIS YOU WORKED SO HARD ON.
WHY AREN'T YOU MAD AT THEM...?
...
GRANDPA
...
ZAAAAA (ZSHHH)

...IF ONLY I HAD DONE MY RESEARCH MORE THOROUGHLY...

...THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED...

IT'S ALL RIGHT. GOD IS WATCHING OVER US...

GRAND-PA...

...I'LL TIDY UP THESE PAPERS.

YOU GO CLEAN THE TEA-CUPS.

PATAN (SHUT)

パタン

...

...AFTER ALL THAT...

...IS GRANDPA REALLY OKAY...?

HA (GASP)

は

...

KHN ...

NGH ...

NNNN...

HE'S CRYING...

GRANDPA...

...THE KIND MAN WHO NEVER SHOWS ANY TEARS. BUT NOW...

MY GRANDPA...

...HE'S CRYING.

BORO

BORO (DRIP)

# 19

PISHAAAN (CRRRACKLE)

.....

GOD IS ALWAYS LIKE THIS.

ゴロロロロ

GORORORORO (RRRRRUMBLE)

HE SENT ME TO THAT INSTITU-TION.

HE TOOK MY PARENTS IN AN ACCIDENT.

NOW HE'S DONE THIS TO GRANDPA.

HE ALWAYS LEAVES ME WITH THE DESTINY THAT'S THE EQUIVALENT OF ROLLING ALL ONES.

SO WHY...?

GIRI (GRIT)

HE TRUSTED IN GOD AND GAVE IT HIS BEST EFFORT.

EVEN AFTER GRANDPA'S WORKED SO, SO HARD.

...THE RIGHT TO WEAR CLOTHES, THE RIGHT TO EAT, THE RIGHT TO SPEAK...

THE RIGHT TO WALK, THE RIGHT TO STAND UP...

HE TOOK BACK ALL THE RIGHTS THAT I HAD LOST.

GRANDPA SAVED ME

...THE RIGHT... TO LIVE AS A HUMAN BEING.

IT'S MY TURN TO HELP GRANDPA.

NOW IT'S MY TURN.

7"...

I'LL MAKE THEM ACCEPT GRANDPA'S RESEARCH.

THERE IS ONLY ONE THING MIYO TAKANO IS MEANT TO DO...

YES. THAT IS THE REASON I WAS BORN...

THOSE MEN WHO TRAMPLED HIS THESIS...

...ALL OF JAPAN— ALL OF THE WORLD!

I'LL SHOW THEM ALL!

GIRIIII (GRIND)

BAN (BAM)

—THEN I'LL SURPASS YOU TOO!

AND IF YOU INSIST ON GETTING IN MY WAY AND ROLLING ME ANOTHER "ONE"...

MIYO TA-KANO WAS BORN ...

...FOR THAT SOLE PUR-POSE !!!!

THE POWER TO FULFILL WISHES AND SPIN THE THREADS OF MY DESIRED FUTURE.

THE STRENGTH OF THE THREADS I SPIN WILL EQUAL THE STRENGTH OF MY WILL.

A STRONG, NOBLE WISH WILL ALWAYS COME TRUE.

PARA

PARA

PARA (FLIP)

KNOWL-EDGE.

I WANT KNOWL-EDGE.

THERE IS NO DISCIPLINE THAT I CAN AFFORD TO NEGLECT.

EVERY SUBJECT WILL LEAD BACK TO MY GRAND-FATHER.

...THEN I NEED TO STUDY MORE.

IF I REALLY WANT TO BE ABLE TO HELP MY GRAND-FATHER...

KARI

KARI

KARI

KARI

KARI (SCRITCH)

RIGHT NOW, NOTHING I CAN DO WILL HELP GRANDPA MORE THAN STUDYING AS HARD AS I CAN.

I'VE NEVER SEEN A STUDENT SO DILIGENT IN HER STUDIES.

AND YET YOU STILL MANAGED TO BE SO SOCIAL AND KEEP SO MANY FRIENDS.

YOU COULD MAKE IT INTO OCHANOMIZU, THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO— ANYWHERE YOU WANT TO GO.

...BECAUSE I KNOW THERE IS NO ONE MORE POWER-LESS THAN A LONELY GENIUS.

AND I DON'T NEGLECT MY SOCIAL LIFE...

I WORK SO HARD BECAUSE I HAVE A GOAL THAT I CAN ONLY REACH THROUGH STUDY.

I HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO FROM WHERE I AM NOW BEFORE I'LL BE ABLE TO HELP GRANDPA.

BUT... IT'S NOT ENOUGH. NOT EVEN CLOSE.

IT WAS A BIG RESOLVE FOR SUCH A SMALL HEART.

IF A HUMAN LIFE IS HEAVIER THAN THE ENTIRE EARTH,

THEN MY LITTLE RESOLVE WAS HEAVIER THAN THE EARTH.

PARASITES ARE EXACTLY WHAT I'M INTERESTED IN STUDYING.

YOU'RE THE GENIUS WHO RANKED HIGHEST IN THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS.

I NEVER DREAMED YOU WOULD GRACE OUR HUMBLE LITTLE RESEARCH TEAM WITH YOUR PRESENCE.

I MEAN, RESEARCH-ING PARASITES ...

THIS ISN'T ENOUGH. NONE OF IT IS ENOUGH.

I WANT TO HELP GRANDPA WITH HIS RESEARCH IN THE TRUEST SENSE.

BUT MOST PEOPLE HATE THIS FIELD.

VERY FEW PEOPLE GO INTO IT.

THERE ARE STILL COUNTLESS MYSTERIES TO BE SOLVED IN THE WORLD OF PARASITES.

I WANT TO SOLVE THOSE MYSTERIES.

...I WANT TO HELP SOMEONE WHO IS TRYING TO SOLVE THEM.

THAT'S WHAT HAS BROUGHT ME TO WHERE I AM TODAY.

WHAT MAGNIFICENT CONVICTION.

SU (56K)

WELCOME TO OUR PARASITE RESEARCH TEAM...

...MIYO TAKANO-SAN.

DESTINY IS AN ABSOLUTE FORCE. IT CONTROLS NOT INDIVIDUALS, BUT PEOPLE. IT CONTROLS THE WORLD.

IN OTHER WORDS, THEY ARE DESTINY.

THE THREADS I SPIN ARE DESTINY.

A WISH THAT HAS BEEN PROMISED FULFILLMENT IS NO LONGER CALLED A WISH.

ZAWA

IT'S MUCH SMALLER THAN THE GENERAL ALUMNI SOCIETY...

...BUT ITS SOLIDARITY IS UNMATCHED.

ZAWA

ZAWA

ZAWA (MURMUR)

ONLY VALEDICTO-RIANS FROM THE NATIONAL SEVEN UNIVERSITIES ARE QUALIFIED TO JOIN THIS ALUMNI SOCIETY.

WITH YOUR ACHIEVE-MENTS AND ACADEMIC RECORD...

...I'M SURE THE OLDER MEMBERS WILL WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS.

HA HA HA HA!

OUR SOCIETY ROSTER INCLUDES CURRENT CABINET MINISTERS, HIGH-RANKING BUREAUCRATS, PRESIDENTS AND ADVISERS TO LARGE CORPORATIONS, AND MORE.

I AM TRULY HONORED TO BE INVITED INTO SUCH AN ORGANI-ZATION.

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TO OFFER, BUT I WILL DO EVERY-TH NG I CAN FOR THE SOC.ETY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

PEKO (BOW)

THEY WILL NEED YOU AND WILL GIVE YOU THE ASSISTANCE YOU NEED IN RETURN.

I WILL MAKE SURE TO GAIN THE COOPERATION MY GRAND-FATHER NEVER MANAGED TO OBTAIN.

RESEARCH ALONE ISN'T ENOUGH.

I WILL DO EVERYTHING WITHIN MY POWER! I WON'T SPARE A SINGLE EFFORT...!

YES.

...I'LL NEED THE HELP OF MANY PEOPLE.

...AND HAVE MY GRAND-FATHER'S GREAT ACHIEVE-MENTS TRULY PRAISED...

IN ORDER TO PRESENT THE RESEARCH FOR EVALUA-TION...

TO GRANT MIYO TAKANO'S ONE WISH IN LIFE.

THIS IS ALL TO ACHIEVE MY PURPOSE.

I WILL BECOME A BEING THAT WON'T BE OUTDONE BY THE WHIMS OF ANY DEITY!

I'LL MAKE ALL THE DICE COME UP SIX. I WILL GO BEYOND THE REALMS OF THE GODS.

NO ONE CAN STAND IN MY WAY. NO ONE CAN OVERTURN MY WORK.

MY ABSOLUTE WILL SHALL SPIN THE THREADS OF AN ABSOLUTE FUTURE.

AND WHEN THEY DO, MY GRANDFATHER WILL BECOME A GOD— HE WILL BE ETERNAL.

I WILL COMPLETE MY GRAND-FATHER'S MASTER-WORK, AND THE WHOLE WORLD WILL SING HIS PRAISES.

I'LL MAKE THEM ALL ACKNOWL-EDGE MY GRAND-FATHER'S RESEARCH.

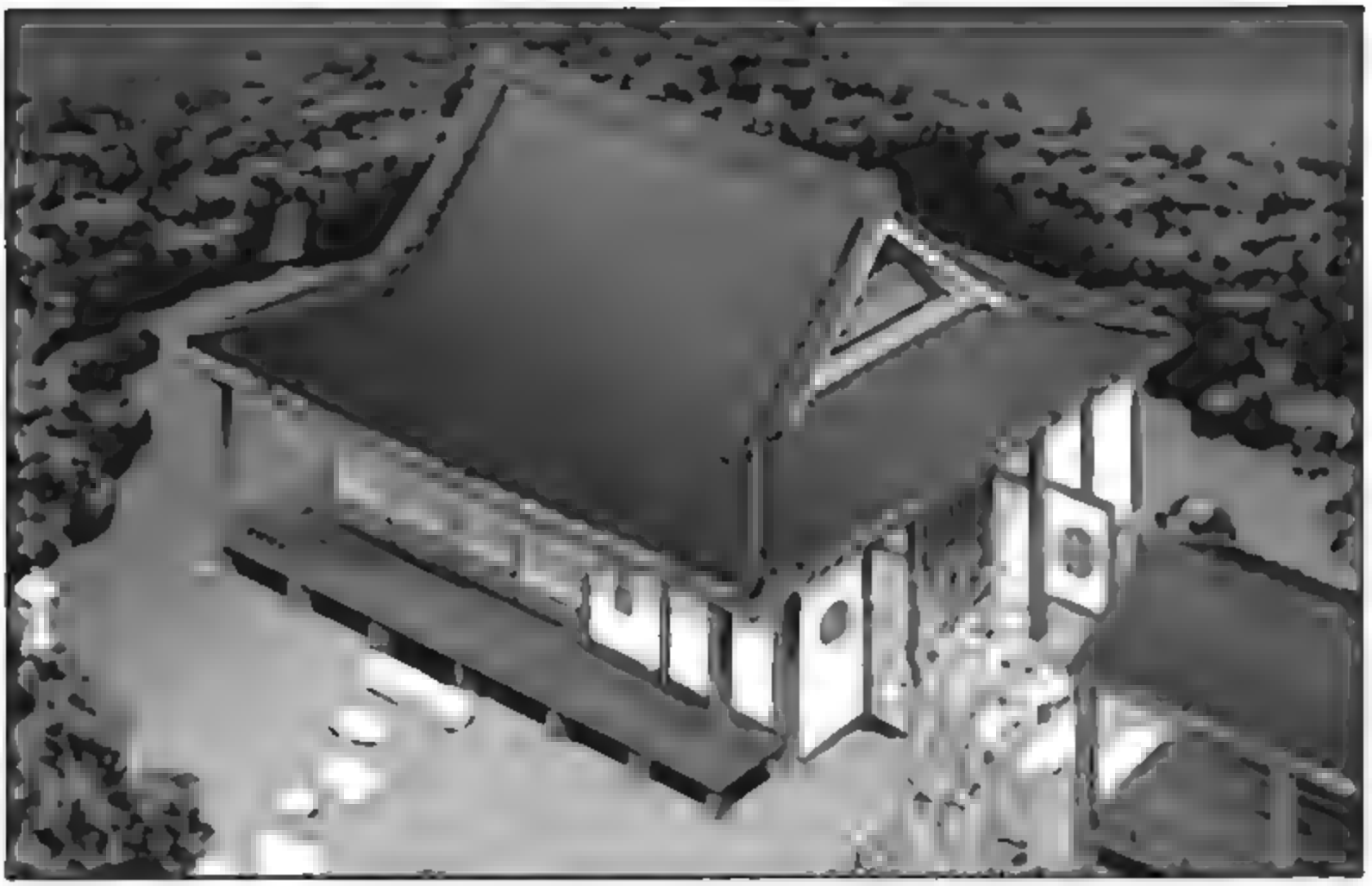
WITH MY ABSOLUTE, INDOMITABLE WILL....!

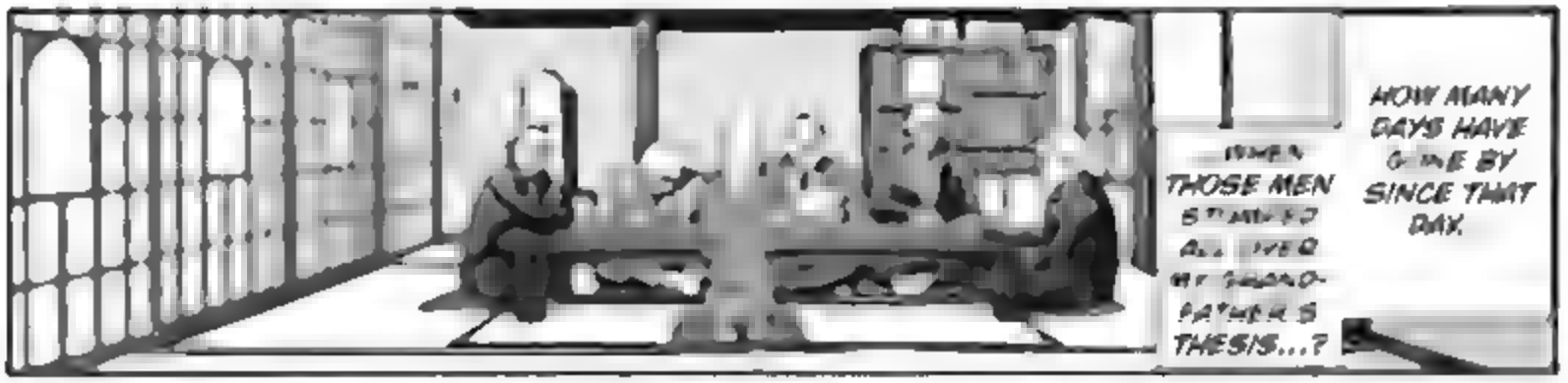
I WILL DECIDE WHAT NUMBER COMES UP ON THE DICE.

I WILL DECIDE DESTINY ITSELF.




CHAPTER 6: THE MARCO POLO
BRIDGE INCIDENT




WHEN THOSE MEN STARTED ALL OVER MY GRANDFATHER'S THESIS...?
HOW MANY DAYS HAVE GONE BY SINCE THAT DAY.


THANK YOU VERY MUCH
HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME... TRULY FASCINATING.
WE'VE READ YOUR RESEARCH, TAKANO-KUN.

I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT.

はっはっはっ

HA HA HA!

YOU'VE CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH NOT ONLY TO THE RESEARCH, BUT TO OUR ORGANIZATION AS WELL.

SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE THINK ONLY OF THEMSELVES. I WISH THEY WOULD LEARN FROM YOUR EXAMPLE.

HA-HA-HA. YOU HAVE SUCH A FINE CHARACTER FOR SOME-ONE SO YOUNG.

I USED THE NETWORK I FORMED DURING COLLEGE TO CONNECT WITH IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN THE FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL WORLDS, SOLIDIFYING THE FOUNDATION FOR MY RESEARCH.

BUT IF I HAD STUDIED ALONE, AS MY GRANDFATHER HAD, I WOULD ONLY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GO SO FAR.

AFTER GRADUATING COLLEGE, I STARTED WORK AT A LABORATORY AND CONTINUED TO STUDY PARASITES.

I GATHERED ALLIES, AVOIDED ENEMIES, INCREASED MY SUPPORT, AND MADE SURE EVERYONE KNEW WHO I WAS.

IT IS NO ORDINARY FEAT FOR SOMEONE AS YOUNG AS MYSELF TO WIN THE TRUST OF SUCH DIGNITARIES.

OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, I BUILT UP MY RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST TO THE POINT WHERE I COULD CHAT WITH THE DIGNITARIES MYSELF.

AND THAT WILL PROVE THAT GRANDPA'S AND MY THEORIES ARE CORRECT.

I'M ALMOST THERE. IF I CAN USE THEIR POWER, THEN THE HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME RESEARCH WILL TAKE A GIANT LEAP FORWARD.

十一

SARA
CRATTLE

SOME-ONE YOU WANT ME TO MEET?

...THERE'S SOMEONE I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET BEFORE WE DECIDE TO GIVE YOUR RESEARCH OUR FULL SUPPORT

NOW...

Y...

...YOU'RE...

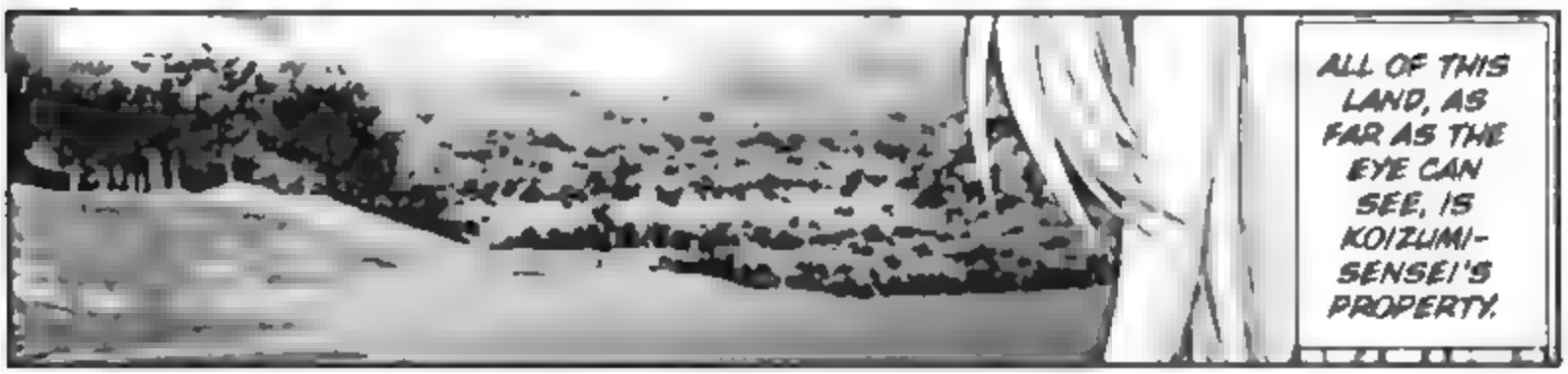
THAT WOULD BE ME.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MIYO-CHAN.

...KOIZUMI... SENSEI?

MIIIN (BUZZ) MIIN MIIN MIIN ...


SORRY TO BRING YOU ALL THE WAY OUT TO MY HOME.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT...


ALL OF THIS LAND, AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE, IS KOIZUMI-SENSEI'S PROPERTY.


...BUT NOW I UNDER-STAND JUST HOW POWERFUL HE IS.
I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WHEN I WAS SMALL...


KOIZUMI-SENSEI IS AN ELITE ARMY VETERAN
...AND HE STILL HAS A POWERFUL INFLUENCE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

IT MAKES ME SO HAPPY TO SEE THAT LITTLE MIYO-CHAN HAS GROWN INTO SUCH A FINE WOMAN.

PEKOR. (BOW)

AND YOU'RE SEEING BRILLIANT RESULTS AT YOUR RESEARCH FACILITY.

YOU GRADUATED COLLEGE TOP OF YOUR CLASS.

I'VE HEARD ABOUT ALL OF YOUR ACHIEVE-MENTS, MIYO-CHAN.

TAKANO-KUN MUST BE OVERJOYED THAT YOU'VE BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL IN CARRYING ON HIS RESEARCH.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

.....

GRANDPA PASSED AWAY SEVERAL YEARS AGO...

...STILL DESPAIRING THAT HIS WORK WOULD NEVER BE FINISHED.

(S...)

...

.. AND THEY TORE HIS RESEARCH TO SHREDS.

KONZUMU-SENSEI REFERRED THOSE MEN WHO CAME TO LISTEN TO GRANDPA ..

AND NOW HE'S COME TO SEE ME.

JUST WHAT IS HE AFTER?

NEITHER MY GRAND-FATHER NOR I HAD ANY CONTACT WITH KONZUMU-SENSEI AFTER THAT DAY.

DOES KOIZUMI-SENSEI KNOW?

WHY DID THAT HAPPEN?

MIIIN (BUZZ)

MIN

MIN

MIN...

NOTE: MIYO NOW USES THE TAKA MEANING "HAWK" INSTEAD OF THE TAKA MEANING "HIGH OR TALL" IN HER GRANDFATHER'S NAME

YES. NOW I USE A DIFFERENT CHARACTER FOR THE "TAKA" IN TAKANO.

AND DID YOU CHANGE YOUR NAME FOR YOUR RESEARCH AS WELL?

YES. THAT'S WHY I STARTED WORK AT THE LABORA-TORY.

...ARE YOU PLANNING TO COMPLETE THE RESEARCH ON HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME?

MIYO-CHAN...

IT PUTS ME AT A DISADVANTAGE WHEN TRYING TO FIND SPONSORS.

...TO RESTORE MY GRANDFATHER'S HONOR.

IF I USE MY GRANDFATHER'S NAME, PEOPLE MAY THINK THAT I'M DOING THIS RESEARCH FOR PERSONAL REASONS...

I ENVY TAKANO-KUN. HE HAS A REMARKABLE SUCCESSOR.

YOU'RE STAKING YOUR WHOLE LIFE ON THIS.

SO, MIYO-CHAN.

チャ!!

CHA (CHAK)



MIIIN (BUZZ)
MIN
MIN
MIN
MIN

KOIZUMI-SENSEI...

THAT RESEARCH IS DANGEROUS. STAY AWAY FROM IT.

YES. THAT RESEARCH WILL AWAKEN GHOSTS FROM THE PAST.

.....

GHOSTS ...?

KOIZUMI-SENSEI DOES KNOW SOME-THING.

IS THAT WHY...

...THEY TRAMPLED ALL OVER GRANDPA'S RESEARCH THAT DAY?

.....

WHY DID THEY REJECT GRANDPA'S RESEARCH?

WILL YOU TELL ME?

ALL RIGHT. I'LL TELL YOU.

A GUN POINTED IN YOUR FACE AND YOU DON'T EVEN BAT AN EYE. ...NERVES OF STEEL.

MIIIN (BUZZ)

MIIN

MIN

MIN

IT WAS DURING THE WAR.

TAKANO-KUN WAS WORKING IN MANCHURIA AS A MILITARY DOCTOR.

HE FOUND MORE THAN A FEW WHO WERE INJURED THROUGH THEIR OWN ACTIONS, OR BY THEIR OWN TEAM.

AS HE EXAMINED THOSE INJURED AND KILLED IN BATTLE...

TAKANO-KUN STARTED EXAMINING THEM INDEPEN-DENTLY.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE DERANGEMENT WAS THE WORK OF A PARASITE LIVING IN THE BRAINS OF THE HINAMIZAWA NATIVES.

*TAKANO-KUN THOUGHT SOMETHING SEEMED WRONG, AND THEN HE REALIZED ...*

*...ALL OF THOSE DISTURBANCES WERE CAUSED BY MEN FROM HINAMIZAWA.*

HE NAMED IT HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

BASA (FLAP)

BASA

BASA

MANY OF THE DISEASED WOULD START FIRING THEIR GUNS INDISCRIMINATELY.

IT MADE PERFECT SENSE THAT THE SYMPTOMS MANIFESTED SO FREQUENTLY ON THE BATTLEFIELD...

...THE PLACE WHERE YOU CAN ALWAYS EXPECT THE MOST STRESSFUL CONDITIONS IMAGINABLE.

"THERE"?

ONE WAS *THERE*. A HINAMIZAWA NATIVE.

BUT WHAT DOES ANY OF IT HAVE TO DO WITH WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY?

YES. I KNOW ABOUT ALL OF THAT.

*AT THE MARCO POLO BRIDGE.*

I DO.

*...YOU DON'T MEAN... THE MARCO POLO BRIDGE INCI-DENT?*

ZAWA (GASP)

!?

!

THE EVENT THAT STARTED THE SECOND SINO-JAPANESE WAR.

THE MARCO POLO BRIDGE INCIDENT ...

...AT THE MARCO POLO BRIDGE IN PEKING, JAPANESE ARMED FORCES WERE SHOT AT DURING A DRILL, SENDING JAPAN AND CHINA TO WAR WITH EACH OTHER.

LATE ON THE NIGHT OF JULY 7, 1937...

THE EVENT TRIGGERED WHAT WAS TO BE THE LONG SECOND SINO-JAPANESE WAR.

AT THE START OF IT ALL...

...WAS A SINGLE BULLET, FIRED BY AN UNKNOWN SHOOTER.

...COULD BE DETERMINED BY WHICH SIDE FIRED THAT BULLET.

YOU MIGHT SAY THAT THE LEGITIMACY OF THAT WAR...

BUT CHINA INSISTED THAT IT WAS THE JAPANESE ARMY THAT FIRED THE BULLET.

JAPAN MOBILIZED THEIR ARMIES ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT WAS FIRED BY THE CHINESE MILITARY.

...ONE JAPANESE COMPANY STATIONED ON THE MARCO POLO BRIDGE...

AND ...

...INCLUDED A MAN FROM HINAMIZAWA.

...THE GUN WAS FIRED BY—

THEN...

DON (WHAM)

WE DON'T KNOW THE TRUTH!

IF THE HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME RESEARCH GOES PUBLIC, IT COULD REIGNITE THE CONFLICT OVER A WAR THAT'S ALREADY OVER.

A LOT OF TIME HAS PASSED SINCE THAT WAR, BUT THE DISPUTE OVER THAT GAP IN HISTORY IS ONGOING.

BUT IF RESEARCH CONTINUES ON HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME, THEN SOONER OR LATER THAT FACT MAY COME TO LIGHT

THAT WOULD PUT JAPAN'S CLAIMS ON VERY SHAKY GROUND.

...AND I WAS FORCED TO ABANDON TAKANO-KUN'S WORK.

SO THE TOP BRASS PRESSURED ME...

...I HAD NO IDEA...

THAT'S WHY THEY TRAMPLED GRANDPA'S RESEARCH LIKE THAT...

I KNOW I WRONGED HIM.

IT WILL ONLY PUT YOU IN DANGER.

SO, MIYO-CHAN...

...I WANT YOU TO STOP THIS RESEARCH TOO.

TAKANO-KUN WOULDN'T WANT THAT.

...I'M SORRY, MIYO.

...IF ONLY I HAD DONE MY RESEARCH MORE THOROUGHLY...

...THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED.

YOU'RE MY GRAND-DAUGHTER NOW.

IT'S MY DREAM.

I WON'T STOP MY RESEARCH.

MIYO-CHAN!

THAT DAY, MIYO TAKANO RESOLVED...

...TO COMPLETE HER GRAND-FATHER'S RESEARCH.

AN ABSOLUTE WILL SHALL CREATE AN ABSOLUTE FUTURE.

IT'S A FUTURE WHOSE REALIZATION IS ASSURED.

I DIDN'T "WISH" TO, I "RESOLVED" TO.

NOT EVEN YOU, KOIZUMI-SENSEI... ...NO...

...NOT EVEN GOD CAN STOP ME.

WHAT?

YOU WON'T HIT ME.

WILL IS POWER-LESS AGAINST FORCE.

I COULD MAKE YOU DISAPPEAR WITH A SINGLE BULLET.

JUST LIKE THE LIGHTNING THAT DAY.

I GUARANTEE YOU, IT WILL MISS.

SHOOT IF YOU WANT.

BUT THAT BULLET WON'T HIT ME.

GATAN

ガタン…

?

HN HA HA HA HA!!

TAKANO-KUN WAS TRULY BLESSED WITH A WONDERFUL GRAND-DAUGHTER!

BRILLIANT. THAT WAS BRILLIANT!

EH...?

YOU MEAN...

YOU SEE, I CAN'T HELP YOU UNLESS YOU'RE PREPARED TO GO ALL THE WAY.

I WAS TESTING YOUR DETERMI-NATION.

I APOLOGIZE FOR THREATENING YOU.

カチ-ン

KATAN (CLATTER)

THERE'S NO ONE TO STAND IN MY WAY ANYMORE.

MOST OF THE TOP BRASS WHO PRESSURED ME BACK THEN ARE DEAD NOW.

PLEASE, LET ME ATONE FOR WHAT I DID BACK THEN.

BUT THIS RESEARCH IS STILL VERY DANGEROUS AND VERY DIFFICULT.

I WON'T LET ANYONE INTERFERE ANYMORE.

THAT'S WHY OLD KOIZUMI HERE INTENDS TO GIVE YOU HIS FULL SUPPORT.

CARRY ON TAKANO-KUN'S LEGACY...

...AND COMPLETE THE RESEARCH ON HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

GYU (SQUEEZE)


THANK YOU SO MUCH


IS THERE ANYTHING YOU NEED
I'LL GIVE YOU AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE.
WELL, THERE IS ONE THING I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU

A RESEARCH FACILITY...

...IN HINAMI-ZAWA.

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC

KOIZUMI-SENSEI'S INFLUENCE WAS TREMEN-DOUS.

TIME WENT BY IN A FLASH.

...AND ESTAB-LISHED A JAPAN GROUND SELF-DEFENSE FORCE LAB IN HINAMI-ZAWA.

HE MOBI-LIZED THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WEL-FARE...

TO AVOID SUSPICION FROM THE LOCALS, THE RESEARCH FACILITY WAS HIDDEN UNDER-GROUND...

...AND CAMOU-FLAGED AS A CLINIC.

I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE FACILITY AS MAJOR TAKANO OF THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE.

KO (TOK)

TO THE PUBLIC, I WAS A NURSE AT THE CLINIC.

KOIZUMI-SENSEI PREPARED THE BEST POSSIBLE RESEARCH ENVIRON-MENT FOR ME.

AND NOT ONLY THAT...

GACHA (KACHAK)

THAT NURSE'S UNIFORM REALLY SUITS YOU.

...HE EVEN HIRED STAFF TO ASSIST ME.

THIS MAN IS KYO-SUKE IRIE.

HE IS THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF THIS FACILITY AND AN AUTHORITY ON BRAIN SURGERY.

HE MAY BE YOUNG, BUT HIS KNOWL-EDGE AND SKILL...

...WILL BE A GREAT BOON TO THE HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME RESEARCH.

THIS MAN IS OKONOGI.

HE WILL BE SUPPORTING OUR WORK BEHIND THE SCENES AS THE LEADER OF THE WILD DOGS—AN UNCONVENTIONAL TEAM THAT SPECIALIZES IN INTELLIGENCE AND SUBTERFUGE.

OHO! THAT'S QUITE THE TRANSFOR-MATION.

...EVEN HOW WE LOOK, IF WE WANT TO AVOID SUSPICION.

WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT EVERY-THING...

JIROU TOMITAKE.

AN AUDITOR WHO MAKES REGULAR VISITS FROM THE HIGHER-UPS— "TOKYO."

...HE SEEMS LIKE A BIT OF A PUSHOVER. IT WILL BE EASY TO PULL MORE FUNDS OUT OF HIM.

HE IS IN CHARGE OF [redacted] OUR RE-SEARCH AND ADJUSTING THE BUDGET, BUT...

...AND MAKE PEOPLE ACCEPT MY GRAND-FATHER'S AND MY WORK.

THIS IS WHERE WE WILL RE-SEARCH HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME ...

...ARE IN FORMA-TION.

THE TROOPS ...

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC

AND THEN...

...GRANDPA AND I WILL BECOME GODS!

入江診療所

# CHAPTER 7: KYOSUKE IRIE

HOW-EVER...

...WAS SET IN MOTION, LEADING UP TO JUNE OF 1983.

THUS, HINAMI-ZAWA'S DESTINY...

...WE STILL NEED MORE TIME.

...BEFORE WE CAN REWIND...

SEND US YOUR DESIRE, YOUR HOPE FOR A MIRACLE.

...I WANT YOU TO LEND US YOUR STRENGTH.

AND SO, HUMANS WHO READ THIS...

HELP US TO GREET...

...OUR IDEAL JUNE 1983.

# CHAPTER 7: KYOSUKE IRIE

SHORTLY AFTER THE ESTABLISH-MENT OF THE IRIE CLINIC.

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC

INCREDIBLE! EVEN THE COMPUTERS DIDN'T CATCH THAT.

...AH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

PLEASE LOOK FOR PATTERNS IN THEIR BLOOD COMPOSI-TION.

THEIR DOPAMINE REACTIONS TEND TO MATCH.

LOOK AT NUM-BER 37, MAKIUCHI-SAN. AND TERADA-SAN, NUMBER 1005.

DO YOU HAVE THE DATA FOR ALL TWO THOUSAND VILLAGERS MEMORIZED...

...DR. IRIE?

EVEN COMPUTER TESTS CAN MISS THINGS.

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT I CHECK THE EXAM RESULTS WITH MY OWN EYES.

WHEW... MAJOR TAKANO IS SOMETHING ELSE, BUT THAT MAN SCARES ME TOO.

WHY AREN'T THESE AMAZING PEOPLE IN PUBLIC OFFICE OR SOME-THING?

DOCTOR! THE RAT TEST FOR REAGENT C@@6 IS READY!

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.

MY NAME IS KYOSUKE IRIE.

I AM THE DIRECTOR OF THE IRIE CLINIC IN HINAMIZAWA.

ARE THERE ANY REACTIONS TO THE DRUG?

NOTHING WORTH NOTING YET.

BUT WE'RE ONLY A HEALTH CLINIC ON THE SURFACE.

HERE, WE ARE CONDUCTING A SECRET GOVERNMENT PROJECT, RESEARCHING HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

RAISE THE DOSAGE FOR GROUP B.

YES, SIR.

KARI (SCRITCH)

KARI

KARI

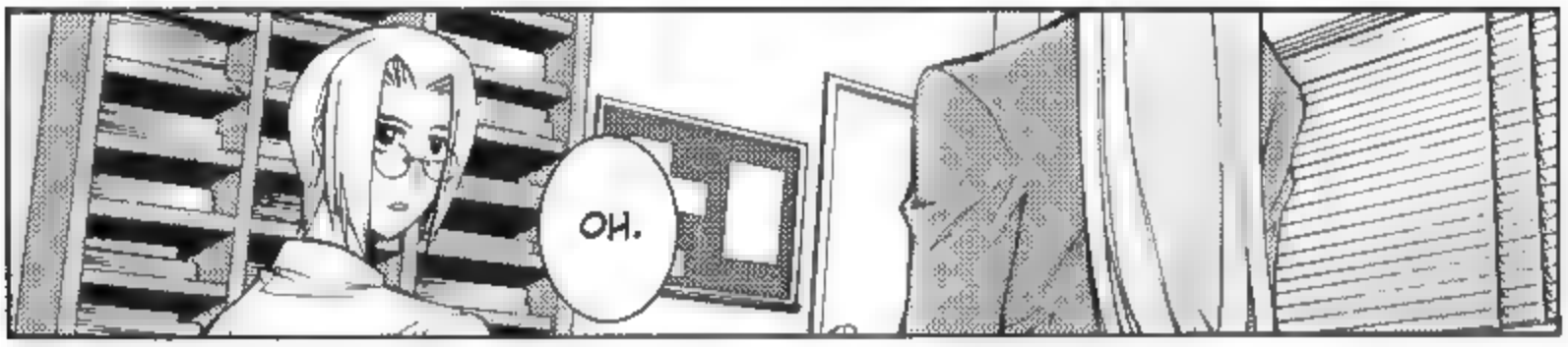
KARI

KARI

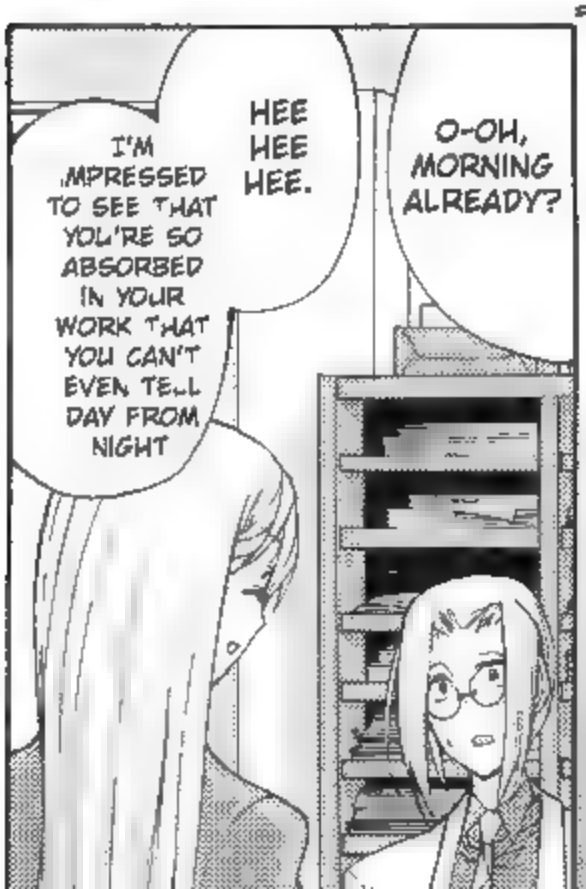
KARI

KARI

HARD AT WORK, I SEE, DR. IRIE.


OH.


TAKANO-SAN.


I'M IMPRESSED TO SEE THAT YOU'RE SO ABSORBED IN YOUR WORK THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL DAY FROM NIGHT
HEE HEE HEE.
O-OH, MORNING ALREADY?




HELLO. TO WHAT DO I OWE THIS LATE-NIGHT VISIT?


?
SU (SSK)

I HAD BEEN STAGNATING IN A REGIONAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL...

...UNTIL MIYO TAKANO-SAN SCOUTED ME TO PARTICIPATE IN HER HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME RESEARCH.

OH NO, IT'S NOTHING. NOT COMPARED TO YOUR PASSION, TAKANO-SAN.

...BUT... THAT DIDN'T BOTHER ME.

THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING SINISTER ABOUT THE WHOLE THING...

IT'S A TOP SECRET NATIONAL PROJECT WITH BACKING FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

カナカナカナ…

KANA (CHIRP)

KANA

KANA

HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

BUT I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

THIS RESEARCH WAS MY LAST CHANCE.

CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES HAD LED TO MY EXPULSION FROM THE WORLD OF ACADEMICS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE SUCH A DISEASE ACTUALLY EXISTS.

I CAN'T BLAME YOU.

THE RESEARCH OF THE LATE HIFUMI TAKANO-SENSEI WAS IGNORED FOR MANY YEARS.

BUT...

カチャ

KACHA (CLINK)

...THE DISEASE DOES EXIST.

YES. THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND.

THANKS TO THE TESTS WE PERFORMED DURING THE VILLAGE-WIDE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION...

...WE'VE GATHERED PLENTY OF DATA THAT SUPPORTS THE THEORY.

IF WE CAN PROVE THAT THE HUMAN BRAIN CAN BE CONTROLLED BY A PARASITE...

...THAT WILL SHOW THAT ALL OF THE RELIGIONS, IDEOLOGIES, AND PHILOSOPHIES OF MANKIND...

...COULD POTENTIALLY BE THE PRODUCT OF PARASITIC CONTROL.

WE HAVE YET TO DISCOVER THE PATHOGEN THAT CAUSES THE DISEASE...

...BUT IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE WE DO, AND THEN THE WORLD WILL ACKNOWLEDGE THE REALITY OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

AND THAT, INEVITABLY...

...WILL COMPLETELY CHANGE OUR ENTIRE VIEW OF HISTORY.

グッ

GU (CLENCH)

YES...THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT THE LATE HIFUMI TAKANO-SENSEI FORESAW.

THIS WILL BE THE GREATEST DISCOVERY OF ALL TIME.

I COULD NEVER COMPARE TO YOU, TAKANO-SAN...

...BUT I WANT TO THROW MYSELF WHOLE-HEARTEDLY INTO THIS WORK.

AS A RESEARCHER, THERE COULD BE NO HIGHER HONOR THAN TO BE A PART OF THIS DISCOVERY.

YES. I BELIEVED, JUST AS MUCH AS TAKANO-SAN DID...

I HAVE HIGH HOPES, DR. IRIE.

クス KUSU (CHUCKLE)

...THAT THIS RESEARCH WOULD SHAKE THE FOUNDA-TIONS OF THE ENTIRE WORLD.

KANA (CHIRP)

KANA

KANA

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC

I WORKED WITH TAKANO-SAN AND THE REST OF OUR STAFF, GIVING MY ALL TO THE RESEARCH.

THE NUMBER OF MONO-AMINE NEU-ROTRANS-MITTERS CREATED IS VASTLY DIFFERENT THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

AND SO I DREAMED OF UNRAVELING THE MYSTERIES OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

ACCORD-NG TO OUR LATEST EXPERIMENT, THE OREXIN RECEPTOR LIGANDS IN THE BRAIN.

A PROJECT TO BUILD A DAM OVER HINAMIZAWA WAS PROPOSED...

AND WE WERE CONCERNED WE WOULD BE UNABLE TO CONTINUE OUR RESEARCH.

BUT WITH THE HELP OF TOMITAKE-SAN AND OKONOGI-SAN, TAKANO-SAN PRESSURED THE MINISTER OF CONSTRUC-TION TO HALT THE PROJECT.

THEY WOULDN'T TELL ME... WHAT THEY DID TO CONVINCE HIM.

BUT WHEN A POLICE OFFICER NAMED AKASAKA WAS SHOT...

...I EXAMINED HIM, AND HE GAVE ME A GENERAL IDEA OF WHAT HAPPENED.

MY ONLY WISH WAS TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF OUR WORK.

WARNING SIGNS WERE EVERY-WHERE...

...BUT I IGNORED THEM AND JUST KEPT DOING MY RESEARCH.

I WAS DIRECTOR OF THE CLINIC IN NAME ONLY...

...BUT I WAS COM-PLETELY CAPTIVATED BY THE ALLURE OF THE RESEARCH.

NEVER-THE-LESS...

IN EARLY SUMMER 1979...

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC

THEY STILL CAN'T FIND ANY-THING !?

...WOULD BE ABLE TO FIND EVEN THE SMALLEST VIRUS.

NO... I WAS SURE THAT THE NEW ELECTRON MICRO-SCOPE...

...THEY COULDN'T FIND ANY UNIQUE PATHOGEN IN THE SPECIMEN.

YES, EVEN AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE FACILITY...

YES, SIR...

...WE CAN'T FIND THE PARASITE THAT WOULD CAUSE THE DISEASE.

BUT...

ALL THE DATA THAT WE'VE COLLECTED UP UNTIL NOW...

...IS A LATTICE-WORK THAT POINTS TO THE REALITY OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

WHERE ELSE CAN WE POSSIBLY LOOK?

WE'VE BEEN OVER EVERY MILLIMETER OF THE CEREBRUM, THE CEREBELLUM, THE THALAMUS, AND THE VERTEBRAL COLUMN.

WE'VE BEEN AT A STANDSTILL FOR MONTHS.

...IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO DECODE HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

EVEN WITH ALL OF OUR SUP-PORTING EVIDENCE, WITHOUT A PATHO-GEN...

AND NOW...

DAN (BAM)

WE'VE MADE IT THIS FAR.

...WE'RE COMPLETELY DEADLOCKED!

CHI (TICK)

CHI

CHI

MAYBE...

...THE PROBLEM IS WITH THE SPECIMENS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, TAKANO-SAN?

?

I HAVE AN IDEA.

WOULD YOU GIVE ME SOME TIME?

AT THE TIME, I HAD NO IDEA...

TAKANO-SAN... WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU PLOT-TING?

ZOKU (CHILL)

...HOW TERRIFYING MIYO TAKANO COULD BE.

THAT NIGHT...

...THE NIGHT OF HINAMI-ZAWA'S TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL, THE COTTON DRIFTING.

綿流し

BANNER: COTTON DRIFTING

キ…

(SCREECH)

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC

I'M SORRY TO CALL YOU OUT HERE SO LATE AT NIGHT, DR. IRIE.

YES.

SPECI-MEN?

OKONOGI AND HIS WILD DOGS...

...HAVE SECURED OUR MOST IMPORTANT SPECIMEN YET.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT. ...BUT WHAT HAPPENED?

*IS IT STILL IN HINAMI-ZAWA...?*

*WHAT IS GOING ON...? WHY WOULD A SPECIMEN BE SO IMPORTANT THAT SHE WOULD CALL ME HERE AT THIS HOUR?*

THIS WAY IF YOU PLEASE, SENSEI.

KII (CREAK)

WHAT ON EARTH...?

KATSUN (CLACK)

ENJOYAAAA!!

H-
HE'S...

FORGIVE ME! FORGIVE ME, BOSS! BOSS!

GATAN

LAST STAGES ...

UWAAAAH! STAY AWAY FROM ME! YOU'RE—

A PATIENT IN THE FINAL STAGES OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

GATAN

GATAN CLATTER

STAY AWAY! STAY AWAY FROM ME! GHNGYAAUGH!

YOU'RE DEAD! WE KILLED YOU!!

.....

HE'S COMPLETELY LOST HIS MIND.

HE'S SUFFERING FROM VARIOUS DELUSIONS, INCLUDING THE CONVICTION THAT HE IS BEING FOLLOWED AND AN INTENSE PERSECUTION COMPLEX.

THESE DELUSIONS HAVE RAISED HIS AGGRESSIVE IMPULSES TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

GATAN GATAN (SATAN BATTLE)

THESE... ARE THE TERMINAL SYMP-TOMS...

GATAN GATAN

A PERFECT MATCH TO THE TERMINAL SYMPTOMS DESCRIBED IN HIFUMI TAKANO-SENSEI'S THESIS.

.....

GRGH-YAAA-AAH!!

GRTAT

...BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN ANYONE IN THE FINAL STAGES.

I'VE EXAMINED PATIENTS WHO SHOWED SYMPTOMS OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME BEFORE...

HA HA HA

は…

HA (GASP)

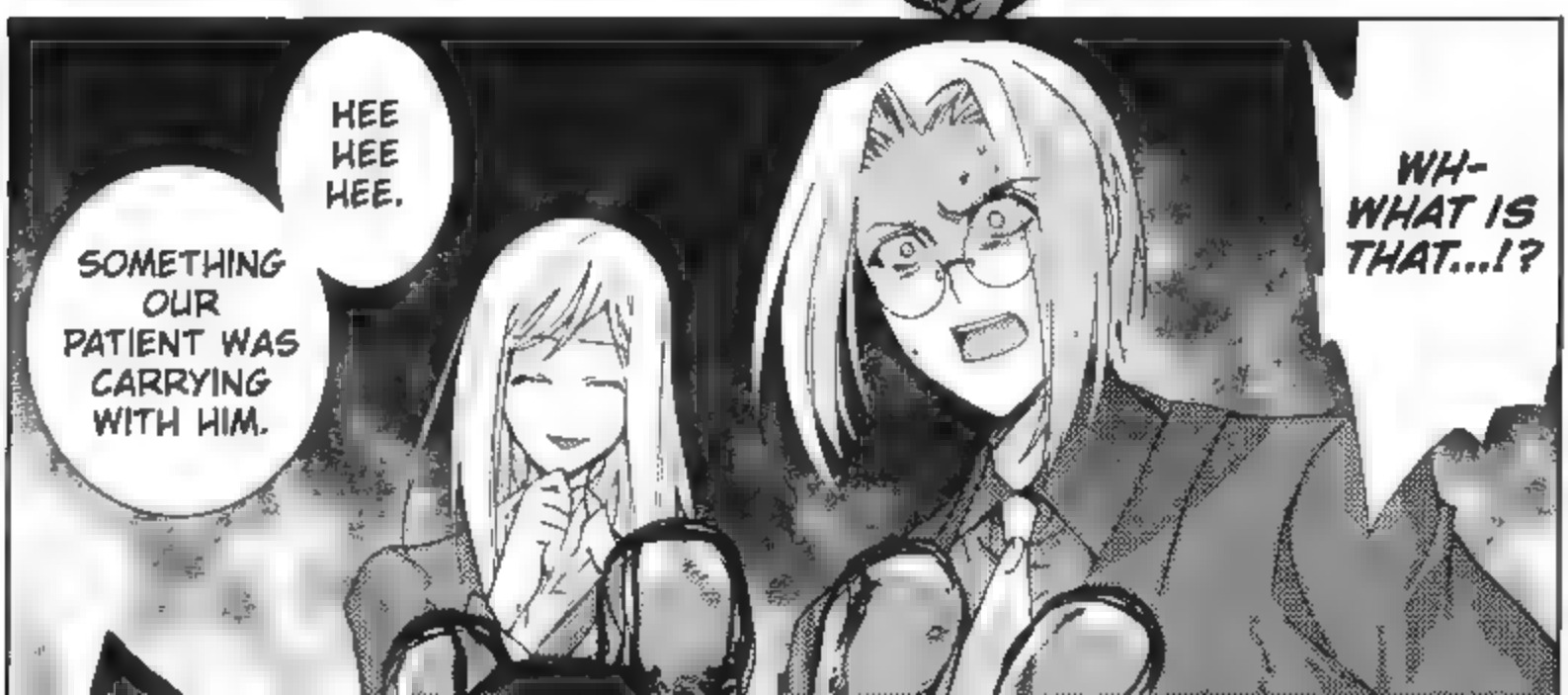
KASA (RUSTLE)

WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED TO THIS MAN?

WHY IS HE DISPLAYING SUCH SEVERE SYMPTOMS?

I HAD NO IDEA IT WAS SUCH A GHASTLY DISEASE.




HEE HEE HEE.
SOMETHING OUR PATIENT WAS CARRYING WITH HIM.
WH-WHAT IS THAT...!?

IT WOULD SEEM HE KILLED SOMEONE...

...AND CHOPPED HIS VICTIM INTO SEVERAL PIECES.

WH-WHERE DID YOU FIND HIM...?

...WELL, IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER, DOES IT?

...OR WHETHER THE SHOCK OF KILLING A MAN SENT HIM INTO THE FINAL STAGE...

AS TO WHETHER HE KILLED THE MAN AS A RESULT OF THE DISEASE ...

POLICE?

A-AND THE POLICE ...?

AND IT WASN'T EASY.

OKONOGI AND HIS MEN FOUND HIM WANDERING AROUND SUSPICIOUSLY LATE AT NIGHT, AND THEY BROUGHT HIM IN.

UWAAHA

SPECIMEN...

ARE YOU SUGGESTING WE KEEP HIM HERE FOR OBSERVATION?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, DR. IRIE?

HE'S THE FIRST TERMINAL PATIENT WE'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED.

WHY SHOULD WE HAVE TO HAND SUCH A VALUABLE SPECIMEN OVER TO THE POLICE?

OH NO.

I'M GOING MY SECRET ENERGY AND BRAIN ENJUT NOW.

WHAT?

I WAS THINKING ABOUT WHY IT IS THAT WE CAN'T FIND THE PATHOGEN THAT CAUSES HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

H-HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT, TAKANO-SAN?

URA RA AH

AND I WONDERED IF PERHAPS THE HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME PATHOGEN...

...IS THE TYPE OF PARASITE THAT LEAVES ONCE THE HOST IS DEAD.

...THE FLEAS' REASON FOR LIVING ON IT IS DESTROYED.

BECAUSE WHEN THE RAT DIES...

IF THE HINAMI-ZAWA SYNDROME PATHOGEN IS A SIMI-LAR TYPE OF PARA-SITE...

BUT YOU'LL NEVER FIND A SINGLE FLEA ON A DEAD RAT.

A WILD RAT IS HOST TO COUNTLESS FLEAS.

.....

BUT THAT WOULD BE LIKE TRYING TO LEARN ABOUT MANKIND BY INVESTIGATING THE EARTH AFTER MAN IS EXTINCT.

...THEN WE CAN EXAMINE DEAD SPECIMENS UNTIL WE'RE BLUE IN THE FACE.

IN OTHER WORDS, A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME.

SO, TO CONFIRM THAT HYPOTH-ESIS...

...WE WILL DISSECT THE MAN'S BRAIN WHILE HE IS ALIVE.

I HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE SANE.

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND, TAKANO-SAN?

NO...

THIS MAN WAS A CONSTRUCTION WORKER ON THE DAM.

THE VILLAGERS WON'T MIND IF HE DISAPPEARS

GOKU (GULP)

I CAN'T POSSIBLY DO WHAT SHE'S SUGGESTING!

...I KNEW THAT SHE WAS OBSESSED WITH THIS RESEARCH...

...BUT I HAD NO IDEA THAT IT WENT THIS FAR.

IT'S TRUE THAT HE'S IN THE FINAL STAGES. IF I WERE TO PERFORM A VIVISECTION...

...WE WOULD GAIN MORE INFORMATION THAN EVERYTHING ELSE WE'VE FOUND PUT TOGETHER.

TO DISSECT A LIVING HUMAN BEING...

I DON'T CARE IF IT'S FOR RESEARCH— THAT WOULD BE UNFORGIV-ABLE!!

DISSECT A LIVING HUMAN?

...IT WOULD MEAN TAKING THIS MAN'S LIFE.

GU (CLENCH)

BUT...

IT WOULD BE A GIANT LEAP FORWARD.

UNETHI-CAL?

NO... I CAN'T DO IT! IT'S TOO UN-ETHI-CAL!!

BA (BAM)

...HAVE COME ABOUT THROUGH THE ACTIONS OF PIONEERS WHO COMPLETELY DISREGARDED ETHICS.

ALL THE GREAT DISCOVERIES IN MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, DR. IRIE?

THAT'S HOW WE'VE OPENED UP EVERY NEW PATH IN MEDICINE, ISN'T IT?

WE VACCINATED HELPLESS CHILDREN WITH COWPOX TO PERFORM EXPERIMENTS ON SMALLPOX.

WE LEARNED ABOUT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HUMAN BODY BY VIOLATING GRAVES TO DIG UP THE BODIES.

*WHY SHOULD WE HAVE TO HESITATE ON ACCOUNT OF "ETHICS" !?*

*WE ARE CARRYING ON HIS LEGACY!*

*.....!*

THE LATE HIFUMI TAKANOSENSE! WAS THE SAME!

HE WORKED RELENTLESSLY ON HIS OWN ORIGINAL RESEARCH, AND THAT'S HOW HE DISCOVERED HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME

HE DIDN'T FEAR SOLITUDE, HE DIDN'T COWER UNDER HIS COLLEAGUES' SCORN.

I RESIGN AS DIRECTOR OF THIS FACILITY.

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITH THIS

I CAN'T DISSECT A LIVING HUMAN'S BRAIN!!

ZA (ZSH)

...THIS WOMAN IS INSANE.

THIS WOMAN ...

SHE WOULD STILL [illegible] AND CALL IT RIGHT?

ス...

THAT IS WHAT YOU SAID, ISN'T IT, DOCTOR?

YOU CAN'T DISSECT A LIVING HUMAN'S BRAIN...

... WHAT'S SO FUNNY !!?

... WHAT ...

HEE HEE HEE.

AND WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT THAT?

...Y-YES, THAT'S WHAT I SAID.

IT IS FUNNY.

I MEAN, DR. IRIE...

...YOU'VE ALREADY CUT INTO SO MANY PEOPLE'S BRAINS.

!!

DID YOU THINK I DIDN'T KNOW?

WHAT ...

...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I WOULD NEVER DO A THING LIKE THAT.

DID YOU THINK I MADE YOU THE DIRECTOR OF THIS FACILITY JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A BRAIN SURGEON?

THOUGH THE FIELD IS NOW OBSOLETE...

...BECAUSE IN THE NAME OF "TREATMENT," YOU CUT OPEN SO MANY PEOPLE'S BRAINS.

WE SELECTED YOU OUT OF ALL THE CANDIDATES ...

...YOU WERE THE HOPE OF THE FUTURE OF PSYCHO-SURGERY.

THE YOUNG PRODIGY, KYOSUKE IRIE-SENSEI.

!!

DOKUN (BADUM)

YOU... YOU KNEW EVERY-THING ...?

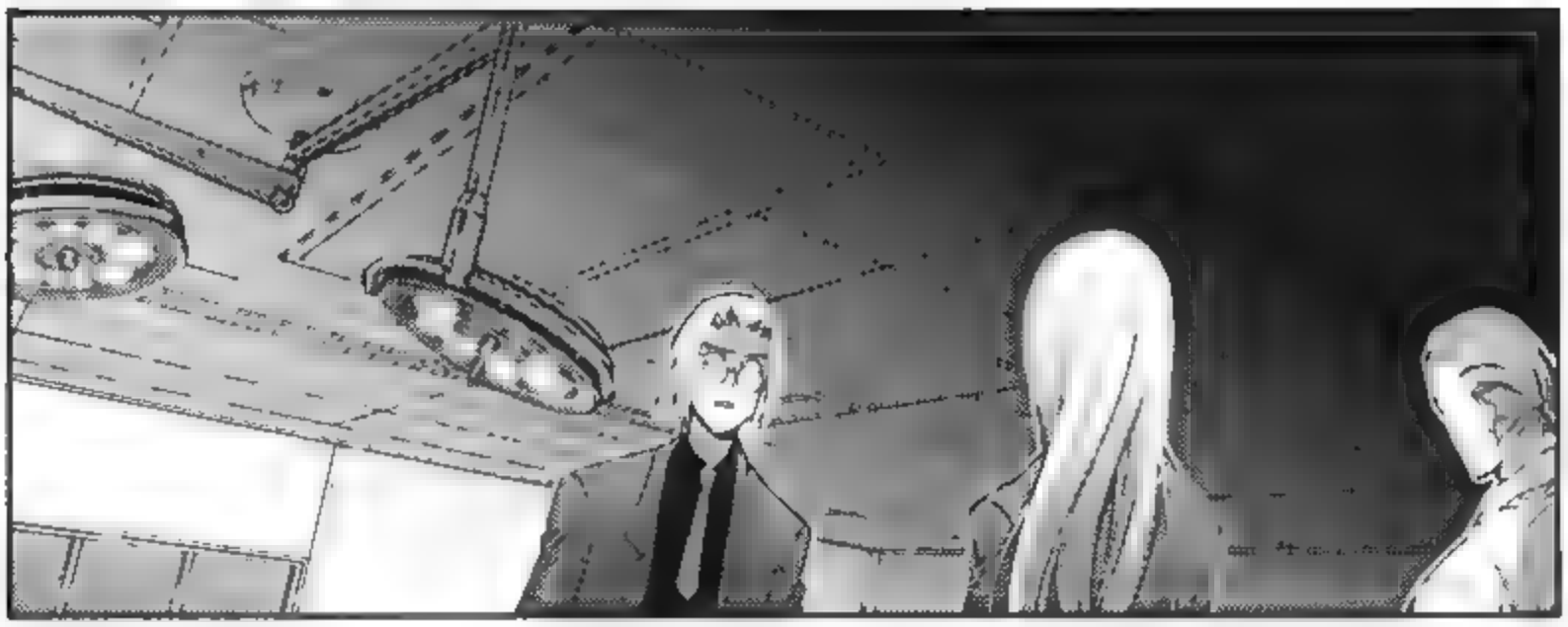
HEE HEE HEE.

I KNEW NOTHING...

THAT'S RIGHT.

...OF THE TERROR THAT WAS MIYO TAKANO.


CHAPTER 8: THE CURSE




PEOPLE BECOME MENTALLY ILL AND COMMIT CRIMES BECAUSE OF DISEASES IN THE BRAIN.


DR. IRIE?
WASN'T THAT THE THEME OF YOUR LIFE'S WORK?

AND YOU PURSUED THAT THEME, EVEN WHEN IT MEANT PERFORMING DANGEROUS TREATMENT THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY EXPEL YOU FROM THE ACADEMIC WORLD.

WHY IS THAT?

...I...

I...

WHEN I WAS A BOY, MY FAMILY WAS NEVER PARTICULARLY WEALTHY.

BUT MY PARENTS LOVED EACH OTHER.

AND OUR HOME WAS VERY HAPPY.

THEY DID EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO SUPPORT ME IN MY DREAM OF BECOMING A DOCTOR.

KYOSUKE... I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU. SO HAPPY FOR YOU...

OH, DEAR. YOU SHOULDN'T CRY SO MUCH!

THEN, WHEN I MADE IT INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL...

PAPER ACCEPTANCE

YOU'RE CRYING TOO.

NOW, NOW...

THERE, THERE...

THEY REALLY WERE A WONDERFUL, LOVING COUPLE.

カンガン

...ONE DAY, AFTER I HAD BEEN IN TOKYO FOR SEVERAL YEARS STUDYING MEDICINE...

BUT...

...MOM?

?

KYO-SUKE?

.....!?

KYO-
SUKE...

YOUR FATHER... YOUR FATHER, HE'S...

GAKU (SLUMP)

MOM! WHAT HAP-PENED !?

HE'S GOING TO KILL ME!

KACHA (CLINK)

MY FATHER HAD ALWAYS BEEN A LITTLE AWKWARD, BUT HE LOVED MY MOTHER.

I WAS STUNNED BY WHAT MY MOTHER TOLD ME.

AND HERE SHE WAS, TELLING ME THAT HE WAS BEATING HER.

SU SSK

.....

...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

...I JUST...

THERE WERE BRUISES ALL OVER MY MOTHER'S BODY, BLOWS FROM MY FATHER.

MOM...

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE... FROM MY SHY, HARD-WORKING FATHER?

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE...

NEVER...

I'M NEVER GOING BACK TO HIM...

A LITTLE WHILE LATER, I RECEIVED WORD FROM MY HOMETOWN.

MY FATHER HAD DIED.

EVENTUALLY, HE STARTED A FIGHT WITH SOME YAKUZA DOWNTOWN.

WHEN MY MOTHER RAN AWAY, MY FATHER LOST THE OUTLET FOR HIS VIOLENCE.

BAN (BAM)

BAN

THEY GANGED UP ON HIM AND BEAT HIM TO DEATH.

WHEN MY MOTHER HEARD IT...

...SO THE OLD BASTARD'S FINALLY DEAD.

...SHE SPAT.

FINALLY... I'M SO GLAD HE'S GONE.

EVERYTHING SHE SAID WAS FULL OF HATE.

THAT MAN.

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

MY HAPPY FAMILY HAD DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE...

IT ALL STARTED WITH THE CHANGE IN MY FATHER.

I SEE...

YOUR FATHER, HMM? I HAD NO IDEA.

AND YOU SAY THAT HE WAS IN AN ACCIDENT AT WORK? HIT IN THE HEAD WITH A WOODEN BEAM?

YES... HE WAS A CONSTRUC-TION WORKER.

AND AFTER THE ACCIDENT, HE GRADUALLY BECAME MORE VIOLENT.

IT WAS PROBABLY ...

.....?

...A MENTAL DISORDER CAUSED BY BRAIN DAMAGE.

THE ACCIDENT COULD HAVE CAUSED A NEOPLASM IN HIS BRAIN...

...WHICH WOULD HAVE LED TO ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR.

AND WHEN ABNORMALITIES OCCUR IN THE BRAIN, THEIR ACTIONS BECOME ABNORMAL AS WELL.

PEOPLE'S ACTIONS ARE DICTATED BY THEIR BRAINS.

IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF AN ABNORMALITY IN HIS BRAIN.

YOUR FATHER DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.

SO I HOPE...

IT WAS ALL BECAUSE OF THAT ACCIDENT.

...YOU'LL FORGIVE HIM.

... KYO-SUKE ...

GYU (SQUEEZE)

DAD WASN'T A BAD PERSON.

...WHEN I DIE, PLEASE DON'T BURY ME WITH THAT MAN.

...GH...

MY MOTHER DIED, HATING MY FATHER TO THE VERY END...

PLEASE, KYO-SUKE...

IN THE END, THAT LOVING COUPLE DIED LOATHING EACH OTHER...

...MAYBE [illegible] STAND.

[illegible]

...AND AT LEAST THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN A HAPPY COUPLE AGAIN IN THE NEXT WORLD.

THEN SHE WOULD HAVE LET GO OF HER HATRED OF HIM...

IF ONLY I HAD BEEN STRONGER...

...WHO SUFFERED FROM BRAIN DISORDERS LIKE MY FATHER'S.

EVENTU-ALLY, I LEARNED...

...THAT THERE WERE COUNTLESS OTHERS IN THE WORLD...

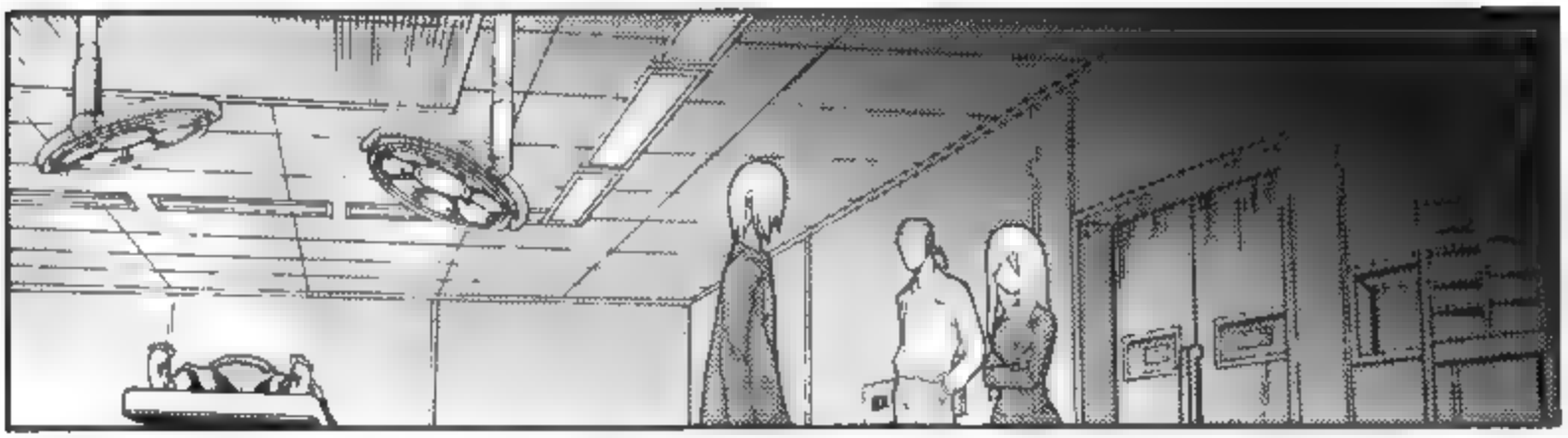
...TRYING TO SAVE THEM: PSYCHO-SURGERY.

AND THAT THERE WAS A FIELD OF STUDY...

I FOLLOWED THE PATH OF PSYCHO-SURGERY...

...TO SAVE PEOPLE WHO SUFFERED LIKE MY FATHER...

TO DECREASE, IN WHAT LITTLE WAY I COULD, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM THESE TRAGIC MISUNDER-STANDINGS.




...BUT PSYCHO-SUR-GERY...
...NO LONGER EXISTS.


AND ALL WHO HAD UTILIZED IT WERE EXPELLED FROM THE ACADEMIC WORLD.
THE SCIENCE WAS REJECTED.


...PSYCHO-SURGERY'S MAIN TREATMENT METHOD: THE LOBOT-OMY.
THE ACADEMIC WORLD BEGAN TO QUESTION ...


.....

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE, DR. IRIE. DON'T YOU AGREE?

IF WE CAN UNDERSTAND HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME, THEN RESEARCH ON THE BRAIN WILL ADVANCE BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS.

THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PIONEER A NEW BRANCH OF BRAIN SCIENCE...

...ONE BETTER THAN PSYCHO-SURGERY!

AND ...

GYU (SQUEEZE)

GO ON. HAVE THE COURAGE TO GET PAST THAT LITTLE QUESTION OF ETHICS.

.....

...WIPE AWAY ALL THE REGRET YOU FEEL OVER YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER.

.....

HOW...? HOW CAN YOU KNOW THAT MUCH?

ARE YOU... A DEVIL...?

...DEVIL?

...NO. I...

KUS-
(CHUCKLE)

...AM GOING TO BE A GOD.

YOU'LL DO IT FOR ME. WON'T YOU, DR. IRIE?

I...

I...

...THEN I'M SURE MY MOTHER AND FATHER...

IF I'D HAD THE STRENGTH...

チャッ
PICHA (SPLAT)

I PERFORMED THE LIVE DISSECTION.

カナカナカナ…
KANA (CHIRP)
KANA
KANA

...THE PATHOGEN CAUSING HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME WAS FOUND.

THEN, ONE WEEK LATER...

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC

おおおお...

OOOOH

SUCH WONDER-FUL RESULTS, DR. IRIE.

.....

THAT NIGHT AT THE DAM CONSTRUCTION SITE...

...THAT MAN COMMITTED A MURDER.

FUU (SIGH) ふぅ...

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE STILL UPSET?

THEY EACH TOOK A PIECE AND RAN WITH IT.

THEN, TO HIDE THE BODY, THEY ALL CUT IT INTO PIECES.

HE HAD AN ARGUMENT WITH THE CONSTRUCTION DIRECTOR...

...AND HE AND HIS COWORKERS LYNCHED HIM.

.....

YOU'RE A FOOL TO LET IT BOTHER YOU, DR. IRIE.

I HEARD THAT THE POLICE CAUGHT ALL THE OTHERS.

THOSE MEN ARE THE SCUM OF HUMANITY. AT LEAST BY HELPING OUR RESEARCH, HE'S DONE SOME GOOD FOR MANKIND.

IT'S NOT OUR PLACE TO DECIDE HIS WORTH.

ZA (ZSH)

IT MAY HAVE BEEN BECAUSE HE HAD COME DOWN WITH HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

HE DIDN'T NECESSARILY COMMIT THE CRIME BECAUSE HE WAS A BAD PERSON.

WE ARE NOT GODS.

...DR. IRIE.

KAT-SUN (CLACK)

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.

IT FITS HINAMIZAWA'S OLD CURSE LEGEND PERFECTLY.

ON THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING, ONE PERSON DIED, ANOTHER DISAPPEARED.

...AFTER WHAT HAPPENED LAST WEEK, ONE MAN, THE MURDER VICTIM, DIED...

...AND THE RING-LEADER... THE MAN WE DISSECTED... WILL BE TREATED AS A MISSING PERSON.

SO SOME OF THE MORE ELDERLY VILLAGERS HAVE REMEMBERED THE NAME OF THE OLD DEITY...

...AND ARE SPREADING RUMORS TO THIS EFFECT:

OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE HAS STRUCK.

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

KUSU

KUSU

KUSU...

WE CAUSED THE CURSE.

WE HAVE TAKEN ONE STEP CLOSER TO GODHOOD.

KANA (CHIRP)

KANA

KANA

HOW DARE YOU... CALL US GODS...?

I KNOW WHAT I DID IS UNFORGIV-ABLE.

SOMEDAY, I WILL BE JUDGED BY A REAL GOD.

...THAT IS EXACTLY WHY I MUST COMPLETE THE RESEARCH.

I'VE BEEN TAINTED WITH SIN.

BUT...

THEN I WILL SAVE AS MANY PEOPLE AS I CAN.

THAT IS THE PATH KYOSUKE IRIE CHOOSES.

ZA (ZSH)



...YOU SEE, NII-NII?

THE THING TO REMEMBER ABOUT TRAPS IS.....

TA (TMP)

TA

TA

TA

THAT SHOULDN'T BE THE ONLY STUFF YOU LEARN ABOUT, SATOKO.

HRRM ...

YOU SHOULD COME TO THE BACK MOUNTAIN WITH ME, NII-NII!

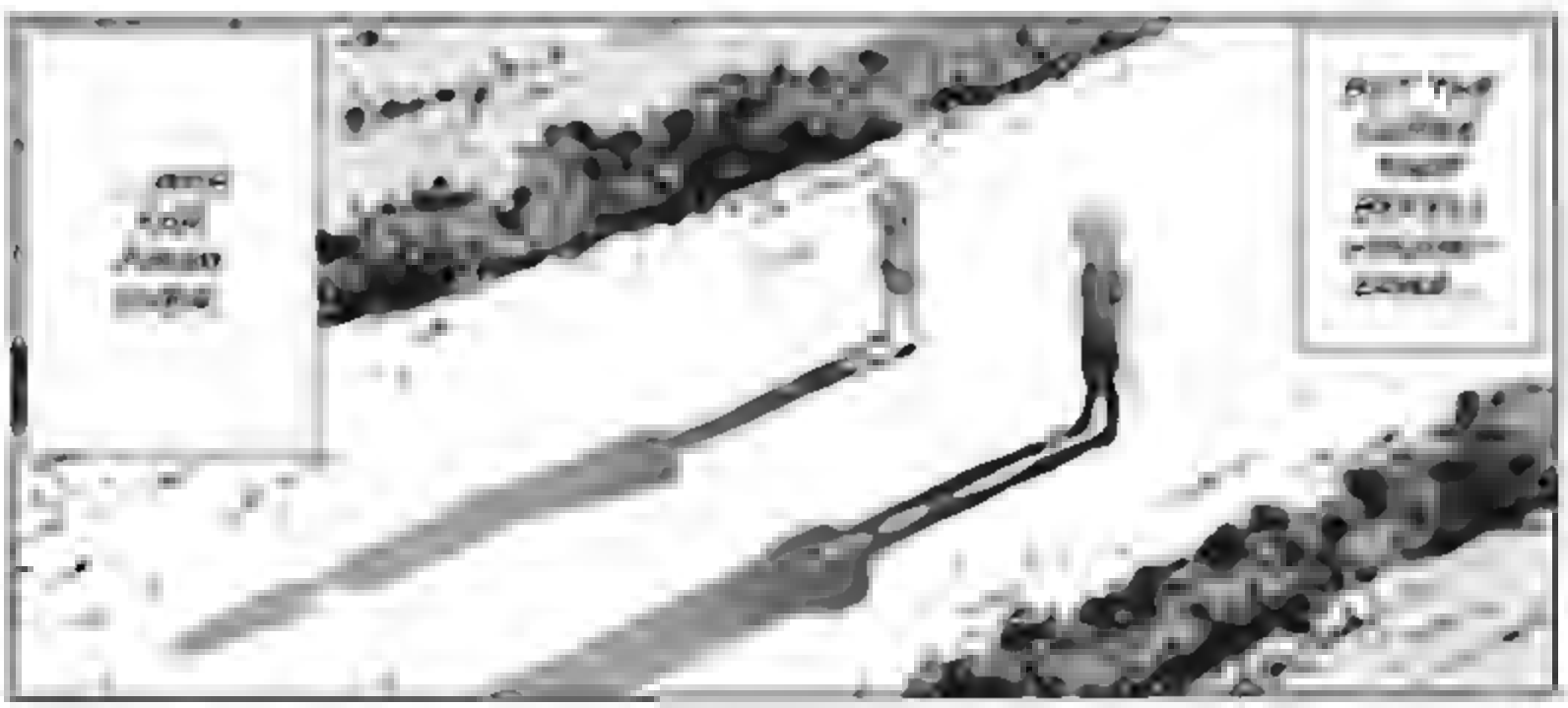
ピタッ

PITA
(STOP)

WHAT'S WRONG?

SAY, NII-NII...


...DID YOU JUST HEAR ONE EXTRA FOOTSTEP?



WHEN I HAD DIFFERENT FATHERS, I WAS SATOKO HATAKE...

...SATOKO YOSHIZAWA, AND SATOKO MATSUURA.

MY NAME IS SATOKO HOJO.

BUT HOJO IS JUST MY NEW FATHER'S NAME.

I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THIS THING THEY CALL "MARRIAGE."

I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY MOTHER KEEPS GETTING DIVORCED AND REMARRIED.

AT FIRST, MY FATHERS ARE ALL VERY KIND TO ME.

I DON'T KNOW IF MY HOJO FATHER WILL STAY MY FATHER, SO I DON'T FEEL LIKE CALLING HIM FATHER AT ALL.

WHEN MY FATHER STARTS TO LOOK LIKE THIS, IT'S TIME FOR A DIVORCE.

...I NEVER WILL, SO THEY KEEP GETTING ANGRIER AND ANGRIER.

BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES THEY ASK ME TO CALL THEM FATHER...

NOTH-ING BUT A NUI-SANCE.

I'M NOTHING BUT A NUISANCE TO MY MOTHER AND MY FATHERS.

...OR "I CAN NEVER BE HAPPY AS LONG AS YOU'RE AROUND."

THEN SHE'LL SAY THINGS TO ME LIKE, "I WISH I'D NEVER HAD YOU"...

WHEN SHE GETS DIVORCED, THEN IT'S MY MOTHER'S TURN TO GET ANGRY.


THAT'S WHY MY FATHERS AND MY MOTHER...
...WISH I WOULD JUST DROP DEAD.
CHAPTER 9: THE SECOND SACRIFICIAL VICTIM



—NN!

ZU (PRICK)

MEW. OWIE-OWIE, FLY AWAY, SIR...

RIKA-CHAN, JUST HANG IN THERE. IT WON'T LAST LONG.

*ABOUT ONE YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE THAT NIGHT—THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING.*

EARLY SUMMER, 1980.

THE HINAMIZAWA DAM CONSTRUCTION WAS CANCELED, AND PEACE RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE.

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC

MEANWHILE, OUR RESEARCH ON HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME CONTINUED.

...GH...

GYU (SQUEEZE)

HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME... A SHOCKING LOCALIZED ILLNESS...

...IN WHICH A PARASITE CONTROLS A PERSON'S BRAIN, EVENTUALLY DRIVING THEM TO DEATH.

...IS THAT BECAUSE OF HER BLOOD-LINE AS WELL?

AND AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE.

STILL, SHE PUTS UP WITH IT AND CONTINUES TO HELP US WITH OUR RESEARCH.

EVEN WITH THE LOCAL ANESTHETIC, IT STILL HURTS.

RIKA FURUDE...

WE HAVE IDENTIFIED HER AS THE KEY TO HINA-MIZAWA SYN-DROME.

THE QUEEN CARRIER.

I HOPE YOU'LL BUY ME SOME JUICE NEXT TIME, SIRI

NIPAAA (BEEEAM)

THANK YOU AS ALWAYS, RIKA-SAN.

SHE SHOULD GIVE US SOME CLUES ABOUT THE POWER OF THE QUEEN CARRIER.

HER CONSTITUTION ISN'T LIKE THE GENERAL POPULATION'S, OR LIKE THE AVERAGE VILLAGER'S.

YES.

WITH RIKA-CHAN'S HELP, WE'VE MADE ANOTHER STEP FORWARD IN RESEARCHING HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME

*FOR GENERATIONS, THEY HAVE CARRIED THE CHIEF PARASITE WITHIN THEIR BODIES.*

*THE FURUDE ARE A FAMILY OF PRIESTS AT HINAMIZAWA'S SHRINE.*

*THE CURRENT QUEEN CARRIER IS THAT LITTLE GIRL, RIKA FURUDE.*

*IT IS OUR THEORY THAT THE SYNDROME STAYS DORMANT BECAUSE OF THE POWER OF THE CHIEF PARASITE.*

*THE VILLAGERS CARRY THE PARASITE CAUSING HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME IN THEIR BRAINS.*

*WE CALL THAT CHIEF PARASITE THE "QUEEN," AND THE FURUDE FAMILY ARE THE "QUEEN CARRIERS."*

IF ONLY...

STILL, IT'S AGGRAVATING THAT WE HAVE YET TO PROVE THE EXISTENCE OF THE QUEEN PARASITE OR ITS EFFECTS ON THE SYNDROME.

JUST LIKE WHEN WE DISSECTED THAT MAN IN THE FINAL STAGES.

...WE COULD TAKE A PEEK INSIDE RIKA-CHAN'S BRAIN. THEN OUR RESEARCH WOULD GO EVEN FURTHER.

...IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE COULD FIND ANOTHER FRESH SPECIMEN.

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

TA-KANO-SAN!

I'M KIDDING! IF WE DISSECTED RIKA-CHAN AND KILLED HER, IT WOULD RUIN EVERY-THING.

BUT...

.....

...ON THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING LAST YEAR...

A FRESH SPECIMEN... SHE MEANS ANOTHER PATIENT IN THE FINAL STAGES OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

...A MAN IN THE TERMINAL STAGES OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME WAS BROUGHT TO THE FACILITY, AND I DISSECTED HIS BRAIN WHILE HE WAS STILL ALIVE.

I BELIEVED THAT WOULD LEAD US TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME... AND TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF NEURO-SCIENCE.

BUT THAT WOULD ONCE AGAIN MEAN...

...KILLING SOME-ONE WITH MY OWN HANDS.

AS TAKANO-SAN SAYS, IF WE COULD PERFORM ANOTHER VIVISECTION ON A PATIENT IN THE FINAL STAGES, WE SHOULD GET EVEN CLOSER TO SOLVING THE MYSTERIES OF THIS DISEASE

AND IN FACT, OUR RESEARCH ON HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME TOOK A GIANT LEAP FORWARD BECAUSE OF THAT DISSECTION.

LAST YEAR, I TOOK A MAN'S LIFE FOR THE SAKE OF THIS RESEARCH.

I CAN'T FORGET HOW TERRIBLE IT FELT.

THAT IS MY SIN, AND IT WILL NEVER BE WIPED AWAY.

NO, I MUST NOT FORGET...

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC

カナカナカナカナ...

KANA (CHIRP)

KANA

KANA

KANA

I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME TO OUR VILLAGE, IRIE-SENSEI. YOUR CLINIC IS SUCH A BIG HELP.

THE VILLAGERS ALL RESPECT ME DEEPLY AS THE ONLY DOC-TOR IN THE VILLAGE.

FOR CAMOUFLAGE PURPOSES, THE RESEARCH FACILITY ALSO ACTS AS A CLINIC.

HEY.

KII (CREAK)

YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

HOJO ...?

IT'S ONE OF THOSE HOJO KIDS.

ZAWA (MURMUR)

WHAT MAKES HIM THINK HE CAN WALTZ IN HERE LIKE THAT?

...WHO IS HE?

BOSO

BOSO (WHISPER)

BOSO

OH, THAT BOY? HE'S ONE OF THE HOJOS.

EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE HATES THAT FAMILY.

BOSO

BOSO

I'VE HEARD ABOUT THE HOJO FAMILY.

DURING THE
WITH THE
NOTICE.
HEAD OF THE
THE WRATH
YOU
OUT HINAMI-ZAWA.
TRYING TO USE THE VILLAGE'S FACILITIES!
BUT WE'...
ENEMIES TO THE WHOLE


THIS... IS TOO CRUEL...


...BUT TO TREAT THEIR CHILDREN WITH SUCH CONTEMPT...
I CAN UNDERSTAND





.....

...UM, I THINK IT'S JUST A COLD.

IF I CAN JUST GET SOME MEDICINE, I'LL GO RIGHT HOME...

THOSE BAGS UNDER HIS EYES, THAT EMACIATED FRAME...

HE SHOULD BE A GROWING BOY. THIS IS JUST TOO PAINFUL TO SEE.

...HE MUST BE UNDER A LOT OF STRESS EVERY DAY.

GYU (CLENCH)

ギュッ

IF HE ALWAYS HAS TO DEAL WITH WHAT I JUST SAW...

STILL, IT'S THE VILLAGE ENVIRON-MENT THAT'S MAKING HIM SUFFER—I CAN'T JUST CHANGE THAT OVERNIGHT.

BUT THAT WON'T SOLVE THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM.

IF I GIVE HIM SOME COLD MEDICINE, THEN THE SYMPTOMS WILL SUBSIDE TEMPORARILY.

INTERNAL MEDICINE

DIRECTIONS

TAKE ___ PILL(S) ___ TIMES DAILY

WITH FOOD

BEFORE MEAL

AFTER MEAL

THIRTY MINUTES AFTER EATING

HOURS AFTER EATING

DATE.

...IF NONE OF THE ADULTS AROUND HIM WILL HELP...

...THEN AS A DOCTOR... IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR HIM...?

SA-TOSHI-KUN...

...SEN-SEI?

EH...?

...HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BASE-BALL?

MIIIN (BUZZ)

MIIN

MIIN

MIIN

I... I HIT IT...!

RUN! RUN!

KA-KIIIN (KA-CRACK)

...IS A JUNIOR BASEBALL TEAM THAT I COACH.

THIS AMATEUR TEAM, THE HINAMIZAWA FIGHTERS...

DA (DASH)

...SO I BECAME THE COACH OF A LOCAL JUNIOR BASEBALL TEAM.

RAAH...

I PLAYED BASEBALL WHEN I WAS YOUNG, AND THE VILLAGE WANTED A TEAM...

RAAAAH

...I-I COULDN'T DO IT, COACH...

HA-HA-HA. DON'T LET IT DISCOURAGE YOU, SATOSHI-KUN.

ZA (ZSH)

THERE'S NOTHING BETTER FOR RELIEVING STRESS THAN SOME MODERATE EXERCISE.

I HOPE WORKING UP A SWEAT PLAYING SPORTS WILL HELP LIGHTEN SATOSHI-KUN'S LOAD A LITTLE.

THAT'S WHY I INVITED HIM TO JOIN THE TEAM.

HRRM...

カナカナカナ...

KANA (CHIRP) KANA KANA

HOW-EVER ...

THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME CLEAN UP, SATOSHI-KUN.

IT'S NOTH-ING ..

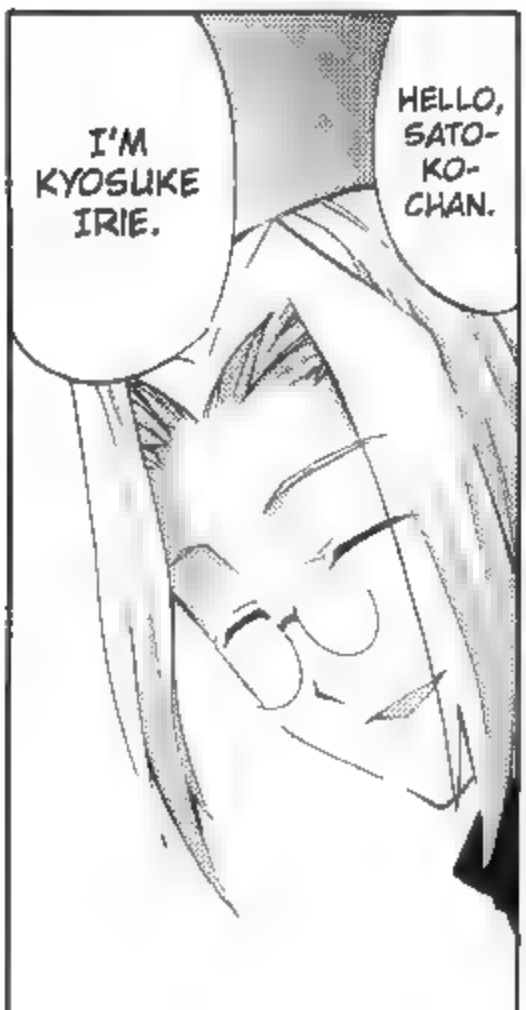
.....

...WEIGHING SATOSHI-KUN DOWN.

...THE VILLAGE WASN'T THE ONLY THING...




WHO'S SHE?
SATO-KO...


I'M KYOSUKE IRIE.
HELLO, SATO-KO-CHAN.


THIS IS MY SISTER.
I CAME TO BRING YOU HOME, NII-NII.
TA (TMP)

.....

COME ON. SAY HELLO, SATOKO.

HURRY UP!

SA-TOKO!

WE NEED TO HURRY HOME, NII-NII.

TA (DASH)

I'M SORRY... SATOKO ISN'T USED TO BEING AROUND GROWN-UPS...

NO, NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT.

I SAW WHAT THE VILLAGERS SAID TO SATOSHI-KUN THE OTHER DAY.

AND SHE LIVES IN THAT SAME ENVIRON-MENT.

IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT SHE FEELS WARY AROUND ADULTS.

SHE MUST REALLY CARE ABOUT YOU, COMING ALL THIS WAY TO GET YOU.

NO...

...I THINK SHE JUST DOESN'T WANT TO GO HOME BY HER-SELF.

EH?

YOUR "NEW" DAD...?

SATOKO IS HAVING A REALLY HARD TIME ADJUSTING TO OUR NEW DAD...

SATOSHI-KUN ALWAYS SPEAKS OF HIS HOME WITH A WEARINESS IN HIS VOICE.

IT'S EASY TO SEE WHY SATOKO-CHAN DOESN'T THINK HIGHLY OF HER FATHERS.

THAT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR ANYONE TO DEAL WITH.

A GIRL HER AGE, CONSTANTLY CHANGING FATHERS...

AND EVERY TIME, SATOKO-CHAN CAUSES TROUBLE FOR THE NEW HUSBAND.

SATOSHI-KUN AND SATOKO-CHAN'S MOTHER HAS DI-VORCED AND REMARRIED SEVERAL TIMES.

BUT SATOSHI-KUN IS FORCED TO STAND BETWEEN HIS SISTER AND HIS PARENTS. THAT MUST BE EMOTIONALLY EXHAUSTING...

IN THAT CASE, HE HAS NOWHERE TO GO TO EASE HIS MIND.

AND IN THE HOME, HE'S STUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CONFLICTS BETWEEN HIS PARENTS AND HIS SISTER.

OUTSIDE HIS HOME, HE'S SUBJECTED TO THE BULLYING OF THE ENTIRE VILLAGE.

HE'S STILL JUST A CHILD HIMSELF...

...AND HIS SLENDER FRAME IS CONSTANTLY CARRYING ALL THAT WEIGHT.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AN OFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE HINAMIZAWA FIGHTERS?

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU.

...SATOSHI-KUN.

HE NEEDS TO BE GIVEN TIME FOR HIS MIND TO REST.

I WANT HIM TO FORGET HIS TROUBLES AND RELAX, AT LEAST WHILE HE'S PLAYING BASEBALL.

IRIE-SENSEI...

THE VILLAGE...

ARE YOU SURE? WE'RE... WELL...

SATOSHI-KUN IS WORRIED ABOUT ME...

ANYONE WHO MAKES FRIENDS WITH THE VILLAGE OUTCASTS WILL BE SHUNNED AS WELL.

I'M SURE. YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO WORRY ABOUT ANY OF THAT.

I DON'T LIKE TO PUT IT THIS WAY, BUT THE VILLAGE TREATS ME LIKE A CELEBRITY.

NO ONE WILL COMPLAIN IF I DO SOMETHING AS SMALL AS PUTTING HIM ON A BASEBALL TEAM.

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC

THIS IS SOMETHING I CAN DO BECAUSE I'M NOT ONE OF THE VILLAGE.

SENSEI...

...PLEASE MAKE ME A PART OF YOUR TEAM.

...THEN MAYBE THAT WILL SAVE ME TOO.

...TOWARD CLEANING MY BLOODY HANDS.

IT WAS A SMALL STEP...

...CAN DO SOMETHING TO HELP SOME-ONE—NO MATTER HOW SMALL...

FOR MY RESEARCH, ALL I CAN DO IS KILL. ...BUT IF SOMEONE LIKE ME...

...AND THEY GRADUALLY STARTED OPENING UP TO ME AND SATOSHI-KUN'S TEAMMATES.

HIS SISTER SATOKO WOULD OFTEN VISIT OUR TEAM PRACTICES ...

...AS AN OFFICIAL TEAM MEMBER.

AFTER THAT, SATOSHI STARTED WORKING HARD...

I WAS HAPPY TO SEE THEM SMILE MORE AND MORE.

...CAME THE DAY OF THE COTTON DRIFTING.

RAAAAAAAAH

THEN...


カナ
KANA
KANA
KANA
KANA (CHIRP)


I'M SORRY, COACH. ANOTHER DAY OF ALL STRIKE-OUTS.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I CAN'T BLAME YOU.
THAT PITCHER LOOKED LIKE HE COULD PITCH AT KOUSHIEN.


A TRIP?


YES... SHE'S ON A TRIP WITH OUR PARENTS TODAY.
BY THE WAY, I WAS SURPRISED NOT TO SEE SATOKO-CHAN TODAY.

NO, I WANTED THEM TO GO, JUST THE THREE OF THEM.

YOU DIDN'T NEED TO MISS IT JUST TO PLAY BASEBALL.

SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE GONE WITH THEM, SATOSHI-KUN?

SHE'S EVEN CALLED THE CHILD CONSULTA-TION CENTER WITH FALSE REPORTS OF ABUSE.

SATOKO ISN'T GETTING ALONG WITH OUR NEW DAD.

BUT I'M HOPING SHE'LL OPEN UP ON THIS TRIP, SO THEY CAN START BEING FRIENDS...

SATOKO IS BEING STUB-BORN.

AT FIRST, MY DAD WOULD GET MAD AT HER FOR DOING IT.

BUT NOW HE'S WORKING HARD TO GET ALONG WITH HER.

WELL, I HOPE THEY'RE ALL GOOD FRIENDS WHEN THEY COME BACK.

I SEE.

ME TOO!

?

SATO-SHIIII

MION ...?

THIS IS... MION SONOZAKI-SAN, IF I REMEMBER RIGHT.

I'VE SEEN HER SEVERAL TIMES IN THE VILLAGE.

SHE SHOULD BE A CLASS-MATE OF SATOSHI-KUN AND SATOKO-CHAN'S.

HAA (HUFF)

HAA

HAA

SATOSHI. STAY CALM AND LISTEN CAREFULLY.

WHAT'S UP, MION?

A LITTLE WHILE AGO, YOUR MOM AND DAD...

!!

...FELL FROM A VIEWING PLAT-FORM AT SHIRA-KAWA PARK!

BJJRORORO (VRRROOOM)

BJJRORO

...

...THEN HIS PARENTS ARE MOST LIKELY...

SHIRAKAWA PARK IS FAMOUS FOR THE STUNNING VIEWS OF ITS FAST-FLOWING RIVER..

IF THE FENCE AT A VIEWING PLATFORM BROKE AND THEY FELL IN...

THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT ARE STILL SEARCHING THE RIVER FOR YOUR PARENTS

SATOKO'S OKAY. SHE WAS WAITING IN THE CAR...

SATOKO-CHAN AND HER FATHER WERE SUPPOSED TO BECOME FRIENDS ON THAT TRIP...

...HOW TERRIBLE ...

KI (SCREE)

DA (DASH)

AND THEN THEY SENT HER HERE TO OKINO-MIYA.

THEY TOOK SATOKO IN AT SHIRAKA-WA PRE-CINCT.

SATO-SHI!

...AUNT, UNCLE...

ふわあ
FUWAAA (YAAAWN)

THE POLICE ARE BRINGING HER OUT. JUST WAIT, DAMMIT.

SATOSHI-KUN'S AUNT AND UNCLE ...?

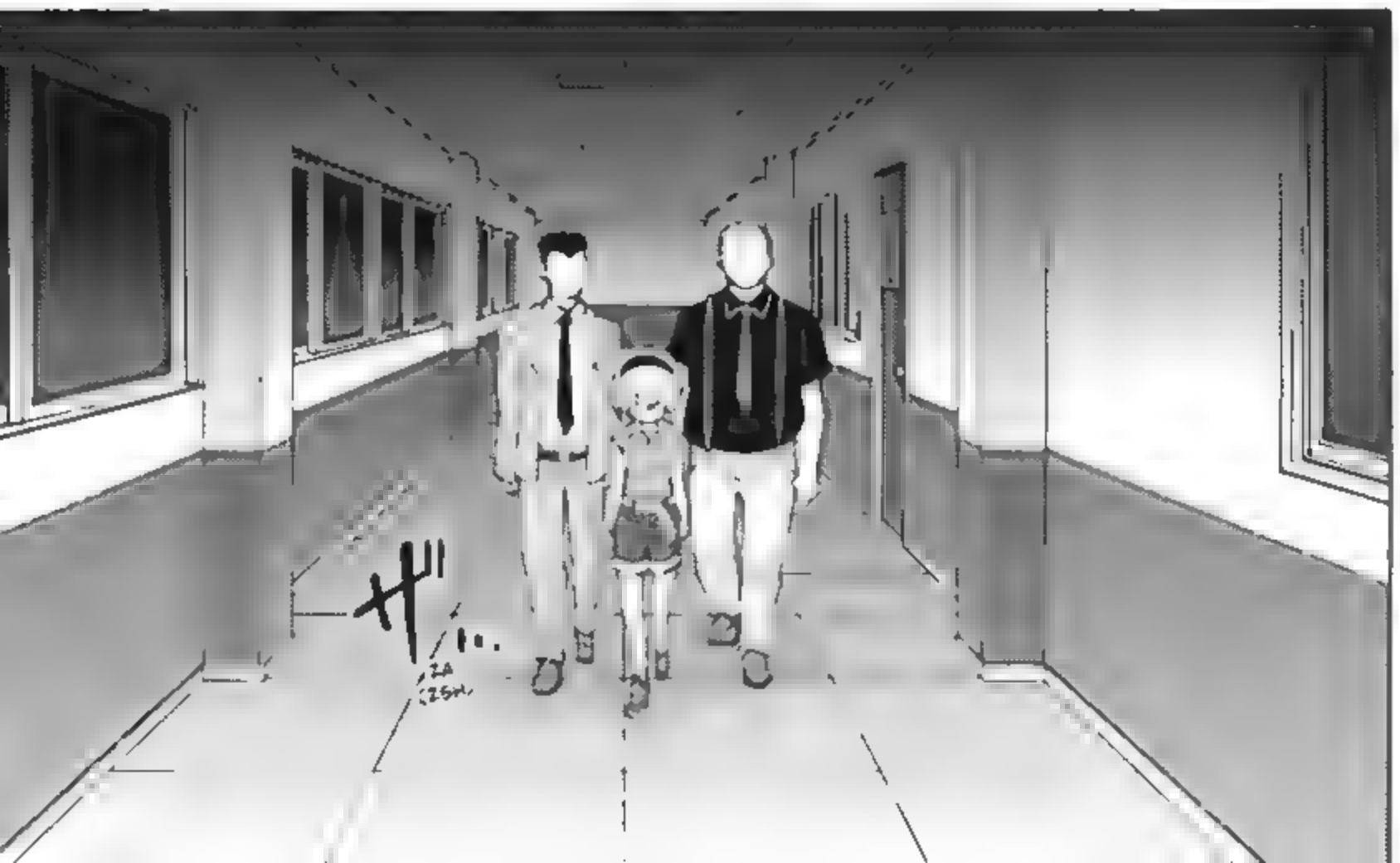
WHERE IS SATO-KO!?




HOW CAN HE ACT LIKE THIS?
THERE WAS JUST AN ACCI-DENT.


SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.


...I DON'T LIKE HANGING AROUND THE POLICE. GET HER OUT HERE ALREADY!



KATSUN (CLACK)

KATSUN

KATSUN

SA-TOKO!

SA-TOKO!

.....

NII-NII...




SA-
TOKO-
CHAN
!!
...
SA-
TOKO
!!
SA-
TOKO
!!

SATOKO-CHAN HAD FAINTED FROM PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL EXHAUSTION.

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC

WE TOOK HER TO THE CLINIC.

REALLY? ...I SEE.

THANK YOU, MION-SAN.

.....

GACHA (CLICK)

ガチャ..

GYU (SQUEEZE)

ギュ…

THEY FOUND YOUR FATHER'S BODY IN THE RIVER.

SA-TOSHI-KUN.

ハイチャ

.....

GYU

...THERE'S ALMOST NO HOPE THAT SHE'S STILL ALIVE...

OH, FOR SUCH YOUNG CHILDREN TO LOSE BOTH THEIR PARENTS...

THEY DECIDED TO CONTINUE THE SEARCH FOR YOUR MOTHER TOMOR-ROW.

IF I...

SA-TOSHI-KUN...

...IT... IT'S MY FAULT...

...IF I HAD GONE WITH THEM, THIS NEVER WOULD HAVE HAPPENED !!

.....

THAT'S NOT TRUE, SATOSHI-KUN.

GYU (SQUEEZE)

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF.

THIS WASN'T ANYONE'S FAULT. IT WAS JUST AN UN-FORTUNATE ACCIDENT.

...YES, SIR...

YOU CAN REST HERE FOR THE NIGHT TOO, SATOSHI-KUN.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN A BIG SHOCK TO SA-TOKO.

YOU SHOULD LEAVE HER HERE AND LET HER REST.

... COACH ...

...I'LL HAVE SOME-ONE GET A ROOM READY FOR YOU.

?

COACH ...

I COULD NEVER HAVE HANDLED THIS ON MY OWN

ガタ

GATA

THANK YOU... REALLY...

...TO THESE TWO CHILDREN?

...WHY DOES ALL OF THIS HAVE TO HAP-PEN...

I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME TO HINAMIZAWA, COACH.

...SATOSHI-KUN...

カッ KA

カッ KA

カッ KA (CLACK)

AND ON THE NIGHT OF THIS YEAR'S COTTON DRIFTING, SATOKO-CHAN WAS BROUGHT TO THE FACILITY.

ON THE NIGHT OF LAST YEAR'S COTTON DRIFTING, A PATIENT WAS BROUGHT TO THIS FACILITY, AND I KILLED HIM.

BUT THIS YEAR WILL BE DIFFERENT.

THIS YEAR, I'LL SAVE SOMEONE.

I'LL RESCUE THEM BOTH.

IRIE-SENSEI.

TAKANO-SAN...

I HAVE THE RESULTS OF SATOKO HOJO'S EXAMINATION.

...IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

WHY DID YOU BRING ME TO THE UNDERGROUND LAB?

I THOUGHT SHE WAS WORN-OUT FROM PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL STRESS.

IS THERE SOMETHING COMPLICATING HER CONDITION?

SATOKO HOJO...

...IS SHOWING SYMPTOMS OF HINA-MIZAWA SYNDROME.

WHAT ...!?

BUT... NOW THAT SHE MENTIONS IT...

GIRI (CLENCH)

NO... THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS...

THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

WHAT DID YOU SAY...?

...SATOKO HAS BEEN CONSTANTLY SUBJECTED TO EXTREME LEVELS OF STRESS.

WITH THE BULLYING FROM THE WHOLE VILLAGE AND HER PROBLEMS WITH HER PARENTS...

SHE'S A HINAMIZAWA NATIVE— WITH SUCH AN IMMENSE PSYCHOLOGICAL BURDEN, IT ONLY MAKES SENSE THE SYNDROME WOULD MANI-FEST...

AND TODAY, HER PARENTS WERE IN AN ACCIDENT.

I SEE...

THEN WE SHOULD DEFINITELY ADMIT HER TO THE CLINIC.

IF IT'S A MILD CASE, THEN THE SYMPTOMS WILL SUBSIDE NATURALLY AFTER SHE SPENDS TIME IN A STRESS-FREE ENVIRON-MENT

WE'LL WAIT FOR HER TO—

UN-FORTU-NATELY ...

EH...?

...HER CASE IS NOT MILD.

SATOKO HOJO'S SYMPTOMS ARE AT LEVEL FIVE.

SHE IS IN THE FINAL STAGES.

LEVEL FIVE...IS THE MOST SERIOUS... THE TERMINAL SYMPTOMS.

WE'VE CLASSIFIED THE SYMPTOMS OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME BY SEVERITY INTO LEVELS, ONE TO FIVE.

WHAT ...?

DON (THMP)

SATOKO-CHAN...?

LEVEL FIVE...? IMPOS-SIBLE...

N-NO...

BUT HER BEHAVIORS ARE NOTHING LIKE THE TERMINAL PATIENT WE SAW LAST YEAR.

SATOKO-CHAN ISN'T IN A FRENZY LIKE HE WAS.

NOT ALL PATIENTS MANIFEST THE SYMPTOMS IN THE SAME WAY.

SOME EXHIBIT AGGRES-SIVE IMPULSES OPENLY.

ウオオ

RRR AAA

AH オオ

AND SOME APPEAR CALM ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT INSIDE...

...THEY ARE BURNING WITH PARANOIA AND HATE.

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SATOKO-CHAN IS ONE OF THE LATTER.

NO...

SATOKO-CHAN...IS TERMINAL ...?

PR... PRE-PARE?

KATSUN (CLACK)

NOW, WE HAVE A LOT TO DO. WE NEED TO PREPARE, FILL OUT PAPER-WORK...

YOU WERE VERY CLOSE TO THOSE TWO, SO I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE A LITTLE WORKED UP OVER THIS.

KATSUN

KATSUN

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, DR. IRIE.

BUT...

...WE MUST PREPARE SATOKO HOJO FOR HER VIVISECTION AT ONCE.

AND IT'S BEEN A WHOLE YEAR SINCE I'VE SEEN HOW BEAUTIFULLY YOU HANDLE A SCALPEL, IRIE-SENSEI.

IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE WE'VE HAD SUCH A FRESH SPECIMEN.

NOW WE'RE SURE TO MAKE MORE PROGRESS ON OUR RESEARCH.

.....

!!

DOKUN (BADUM)

S-SATOKO-CHAN IS JUST A CHILD!

DISSECTING HER WOULD BE UNFORGIVABLE!

...TO SAVE THOSE TWO!

BESIDES, I'VE RESOLVED...

SATOKO HOJO IS A TERMINAL PATIENT.

AND ...

THEN WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH SATOKO HOJO?

HEE HEE HEE.

EH?

...TERMINAL PATIENTS CANNOT BE CURED.

!!

EVENTUALLY, THE ITCHING IN HER LYMPH NODES WILL BE TOO MUCH FOR HER.

AS A RESULT, SHE WILL START TO ATTACK THOSE AROUND HER.

SATOKO HOJO'S PARANOIA TOWARD HER SURROUNDINGS WILL AMPLIFY.

!!

GU (CLENCH)

SHE'LL SCRATCH AT HER THROAT UNTIL SHE TEARS AN ARTERY...

...AND KILLS HER-SELF.

.....

JUST LIKE IT SAYS IN THE ANCIENT LEGENDS OF OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

AND THAT WON'T DO ANY GOOD FOR OUR RESEARCH.

BUT ONCE SHE DIES, THE HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME PATHOGEN WILL VANISH IMMEDIATELY.

IT COULD BE FUN TO SEE THAT PLAY OUT.

SO WE MUST DISSECT HER BRAIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BEFORE THAT CAN HAPPEN.

BUT EVEN IF I DON'T... DEATH IS THE ONLY THING THAT AWAITS HER.

I CAN'T D-DISSECT HER...

.....

...I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME TO HINAMIZAWA.

COACH...

I...
I...

...WHAT SHOULD I DO?

HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC ❶ END

©Ryukishi07/Project Higurashi. Welcome to the madness.

# ABOUT THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC": WITH AN OCCASIONAL SMILE

## ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHI07

HELLO, I'M RYUKISHI07.

AS YOU CAN SEE IN THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC," KYOSUKE IRIE IS AN IMPORTANT CHARACTER WHO IS DEEPLY CONNECTED TO HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME. WHEN I WAS WORKING OUT HIS CHARACTER EARLY ON, I REALLY WASN'T SURE HOW TO GIVE HIM PRESENCE WITHOUT MAKING HIM SEEM TOO SUSPICIOUS. AS A RESULT, HIS DEFINING TRAIT WAS HIS OBSESSION WITH MAIDS—A BIZARRE CHARACTERISTIC THAT IS WAY OUT IN LEFT FIELD WHEN COMPARED TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS BACKSTORY.

AT FIRST I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST A GOOFBALL COMPLETELY UNBEFITTING HIS GRAND HISTORY. BUT AS I ROUNDED OUT HIS CHARACTER LITTLE BY LITTLE, I STARTED TO THINK THAT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT MAKES HIM HUMAN. AND IN THE BEGINNING HE PLAYED HIS PART WELL AS THE CLOWN. IT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A LITTLE PRANK TO TEASE THE UNLUCKY SATOKO.

BUT I WONDER IF PERHAPS WHEN HE WAS PLAYING THAT GOOFY CHARACTER, THOSE WERE THE ONLY TIMES HE WAS ABLE TO FORGET HIS TRAGIC PAST. AND HE'D NO DOUBT LEARNED THAT A SMILE, EVEN A FAKE ONE, CAN LIGHTEN THE LOAD ON ONE'S HEART. LIFE ISN'T SHORT ENOUGH THAT WE CAN CARRY A HEAVY LOAD AND LIVE ONLY FOR THAT PURPOSE. RATHER, IF YOU DON'T MAKE SURE TO SMILE, EVEN IF YOU DON'T MEAN IT, AND RELAX A LITTLE AT A TIME, YOU'RE GUARANTEED TO BE CRUSHED BY YOUR LOAD SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY. AND THAT'S WHY IRIE WOULD CHASE SATOKO AROUND WITH A MAID'S HEADPIECE—THOSE WERE THE ONLY TIMES HE COULD FORGET HIS PAST AND SMILE WITH ALL HIS HEART...THEN HE WOULD BE ABLE TO FEEL THAT MUCH MORE PASSION FOR HIS RESEARCH AND EFFORTS TO ERADICATE THE TRAGIC DISEASE.

I DON'T THINK ANY OF US HAS AN EASY LIFE. BUT IF OUR ONLY FOCUS IS ON CARRYING OUR LOAD, THAT LOAD WILL CRUSH US. PLEASE LEARN FROM IRIE AND SMILE AND GOOF OFF SOMETIMES. I'M SURE IT WILL LIGHTEN YOUR LOAD.

OH, BUT I DON'T MEAN YOU SHOULD DO THE MAID THING.

THANK YOU FOR READING THROUGH VOLUME 2 OF THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC." MIYOKO IS ALL GROWN UP NOW. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL WATCH TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS AT THE END OF MIYO'S TALE OF HARD WORK AND TO SEE THE FUTURE OF HINAMIZAWA. PLEASE KEEP READING.


-SPECIAL THANKS-

-ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR-
RYUKISHI07-SAMA, BT-SAMA, YATAZAKURA-SAMA

-MY EDITORS-
KOIZUMI-SAMA, KOUNO-SAMA

-MY STAFF-
SHIGETOMO TANAKURA-SAMA, NAYU Y-SAMA, HIKARU NIKAIDO-SAMA, NIWAKO-SAMA, TOMOKA FURUTA-SAMA, RICO-SAMA, YF-SAMA, YO-SHUN-SAMA
AND YOU!

# HIGURASHI
# WHEN THEY CRY
## FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC ①

RYUKISHI07
Karin Suzuragi

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